DOLPHIN LOG

Collection, Year 2024

The Bulletin of the
Dolphin Swimming & Boating Club
San Francisco, Established 1877

Dolphin Swimming & Boating Club
502 Jefferson Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

SPRING 2024

DOLPHIN LOG

THE BULLETIN OF THE DOLPHIN SWIMMING & BOATING CLUB • SAN FRANCISCO • ESTABLISHED 1877

Seven Swims in the Ancient Seven Seas

Temple of Athena in Lindos Rhodes, that swimmer-explorer and Dolphin David Rich swam past as he pioneered a new event which has been recognized by WOWSA (World Open Water Swimming Association). Story on p. 4. (Photo: Noelle Rich)

Dolphin Log

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Treasurer: Ryan Utsumi

Recording Secretary: David Zovickian

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Boat Captain: John Robiola

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James Dilworth, Ward Bushee, Deborah Sherwood, John Hornor, Nathaniel Berger, Nanda Palmieri, Jari Salomaa, Janine Corcoran

Club Manager: John Ingle

Asst. Club Steward: Brendan Sheehan

THIS AREA, THE EAST END OF THE
GOLDEN GATE PROMENADE,
IS MAINTAINED AS DEDICATED
PUBLIC ACCESS
TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY SHORELINE
BY THE DOLPHIN SWIMMING
AND BOATING CLUB.

Artifact 314, visible on the sidewalk about 12 feet west from the SW corner of the Club, affirms the public's right to access the beach at Aquatic Park.

News from the Archives

Morgan Kulla

Have you ever noticed two bronze plaques outside the Club at the SW corner of the building? Artifact 313 is on the west wall at the SW corner, and 314 is set in the sidewalk about 12 feet to the west. These two artifacts are a window on events in the 1970s-1980s which so changed the Club: women members, public day use, the 1980 fire, and the major rebuilding/renovations that followed.

The story begins in 1974 with the first of a series of three lawsuits, which led to the admission of women to the Dolphin and South End clubs in late 1976, then to public day use in 1979. The first lawsuit pointed out that the—then, three—rowing clubs were on public land and could not discriminate. The defendant in first lawsuit was the San Francisco Rowing Club (SFRC/aka Ariel Club), not the Dolphin or South End clubs. This club was located at 504 Jefferson just west of the Dolphin Club. The Club was inactive and in poor repair; as a result of the first lawsuit, it shut down. In July 1979, the Dolphin Club signed a lease with the city for both premises. Minutes of board meetings in 1979 and 1980 reveal the many challenges of the "West Clubhouse" as it was called.

On November 21,1980, a five-alarm fire destroyed the SFRC and seriously damaged the Dolphin Club. Later, a "transient" who had been sleeping under the SFRC was charged with arson. None of us there that night will ever forget the sight of our dear Club on fire. After the fire, it was no longer a question of repairs and upgrades to meet code; the Club launched a major rebuilding, using most of the footprint of the old SFRC.

As with the current renovation, the Club needed many permits for the work, including one from the BCDC (SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission). The BCDC permit issued in May 1987 contained many requirements, including three signs: one sign for public day use (by the door); an "interpretive sign" with the historical and social significance of the Club (313), and a "public access" sign (314).

This latter sign is about the area just west of the club, the part of the SFRC footprint not used in the Dolphin Club expansion. This strip of pavement runs from the sidewalk down to the beach, between the Dolphin Club building/lease line and the GGNRA property. As stated on the plaque (314), our Club must to maintain that area for public access to Aquatic Park. (FYI, the current renovations will start as Amendment 7 of the same 1987 BCDC permit.)

The two brass plaques were installed in 1990. So, when you walk past them, or even step on Artifact 314, think of the story that these artifacts tell! For more information, read the full entries at *https://hub.catalogit.app/375* Thanks to Pete Bianucci, Meg Reilly, and Mimi Osborne for guiding me in the research for this "News."

Commissioners:

Swimming

Swim Commissioners: Bobby Lu, Tim McElligott, Lindsay Stripling, Ben Chun **Check-in:** Eric Shupert **Clean-up:** Steve Carlson **Clothes Wrangling:** Janine Corcoran **Swim Trinkets:** Margaret Keenan **Timing:** Janice Wood, Emily Nogue, Tamar Besson **Galley Captain:** Alix Marduel **Swim Clinic Director:** Diane Campbell

Rowing

Wooden Fleet Commissioner: Nanda Palmieri **Lake Merced Captain:** Jim Storm, Rachael Perry **Kayak Training:** Nathaniel Berger, Terry Horn **Motorized Fleet Commissioner & Chief Pilot:** Nathaniel Berger **Non-Motorized piloting:** Terry Horn **Shell Training:** James Dilworth, Gabby Wong **Learn to Row:** Scott Stark, Dominic Lusinchi, **Grizzly Challenge:** Zack McCune **SUP Training:** Raine O'Connor, Gary Leong **Boat Night:** Jon Bielinski, Julia Hechanova

Other Athletics

DC/SERC TRI Captain: Ward Bushee **EFAT:** Gina Rus **Handball Captain:** Brendan Monoghan **Running Commissioner:** Anna Olsen **Weight Room Captain:** Deborah Sherwood

Lockers

Women's Captain: Crissa Williams
Men's Captain: David Zovickian

What is the Dolphin Foundation and What Does it Do?

Anthony W. DuComb, President

Dolphin Swimming and Boating Foundation

During the recently concluded campaign to raise $2.75 million to renovate the Dolphin Boathouse, members frequently asked, “What is the difference between the Dolphin Club and the Dolphin Foundation?” “What does the Foundation do?” This article answers those questions.

The Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club was established in July 1877. According to its Bylaws, “The Club's purpose is to provide facilities and host events for rowing and swimming and to engage in such other athletic activities as may be beneficial to the health and well-being of the members.” For almost a century and a half, the Club has remained open for daily use by members and later by the public, and has sponsored swimming, rowing, triathlon, handball, and other sporting events, along with a full social schedule of parties, dinners, and banquets. A diverse membership, now over 2,000, are the current custodians of the unique Dolphin Club culture.

However, as an IRS 501(c)(4) non-profit organization, the Dolphin Club may not accept tax-exempt charitable contributions. Thus, in 2018, Club leadership established the Dolphin Swimming and Boating Foundation, which was granted an IRS exemption as a 501(c)(3) organization. Its seven directors must include at least two members on the Dolphin Club Board, with Club members filling the remaining positions.

The Dolphin Foundation is the successor to the Dolphin Building Fund Committee, which was created in 1998 to develop and maintain an additional source of capital for major building-related projects. Initially, the San Francisco Park Trust managed the Building Fund, and later, San Francisco Baykeeper assumed that role. The agreement with Baykeeper ended in 2019, and Building Fund assets were transferred to the Foundation.

The Foundation's Bylaws read that it shall maintain city and county property at 502 Jefferson St., San Francisco, for public use and recreation, and provide classes and education on swimming, rowing, and boat building. The Foundation’s charitable mandate thus is broader than its predecessor, the Building Fund.

Over the past few years, the Foundation has issued grants to the Club for architectural plans, permit preparations, applications, and fees, with $140,000 granted in 2023-24. The Foundation will continue to respond to requests for renovation grants from the $2.75 Million raised.

The Foundation now also oversees the Dolphin Youth Swim Fund, whose purpose since 1993 has been to provide financial support for swimming lessons for disadvantaged San Francisco youth. The Youth Swim Fund has a committee that invites, reviews, and recommends grants for approval to the Foundation for swimming and related educational opportunities, such as boating and boat building.

Last year, the Foundation received a generous $60,000 gift from the Estate of Ross Browne: $20,000 for the renovation and $40,000 as a matching grant for the Dolphin Youth Swim Fund. Over the next eight years, the Ross Browne grant will match $5,000 per year raised by the Youth Swim Fund to create long-term and consistent swim programs including “Learn to Swim” at the SF Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA.

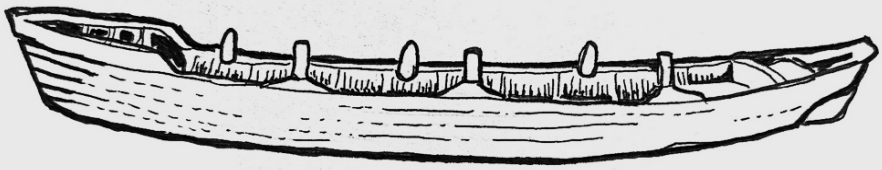
The Foundation also welcomes other requests and, in 2023, extended a grant to Spaulding Marine Center for a youth summer sea camp, with boat building and shipwright activities.

The Foundation anticipates the needs for all these projects and programs. Gifts and pledges may be designated for:

1. Building Renovation,
2. Dolphin Youth Swim Fund, and
3. Education/Community Fund.

Members are invited to join the almost 800 others who have already generously gifted and pledged.

Here is the link: *https://www.dolphinfoundationsf.org/donate.html*



Current 6-man barge Wieland, built in 1887 (Kent Myers)

Sid Hollister’s third installment of his Dolphin Club history will be published in the Summer 2024 Log

After the fiery death of Dolphin Club founder John Wieland and his daughter Bertha in 1885, the traumatized Club was licking its wounds. But a rebirth was on the way. A 6-man barge honoring Wieland was built—and is still in regular use today—and a new spacious clubhouse would soon be constructed at the foot of Van Ness Avenue. The Dolphin Club was on the map!

Club House

Gardens: Susanne Friedrich, Andy Stone **Deck Landscape:** Steve Krolik **Green Team:** Janice Wood **Pier & Deck Hands:** Stephan Crawford

Social

Entertainment Commish: Robin Rome
Club Mixer: Todd Bloch, Davis Ja
Joe Illick Forum: Krist Jake, Stuart Gannes
Ukulele Club: Carolyn Hui

Communications

Comm Committee: Elaine Van Vleck
Facebook: James Dilworth **Groups. io:** Ward Bushee **Instagram:** Mackenzie Kirk, Anne Hamersky **Twitter/Mastodon:** Nancy Friedman **2000 Stories:** Julie Marcus
Website Manager: Laura Croome

Lost & Found

Club & Women’s Locker Room: Piper Murakami **Men’s Locker Room:** Hal Offen

Other

Volunteer Coordinator: Denise Sauerteig
Dolphin Foundation: Anthony DuComb
DC Youth Swim Fund: Laura Zovickian
Government: Ken Coren, Diane Walton
Renovation Committee: John Hornor, Peter van der Sterre **Save Aquatic Park Pier:** Diane Walton
Swag: John Ingle, Brendan Sheehan, Maile Smith

Seven Swims in the Ancient Seven Seas

David with the crew of his Red Sea swim, Mohammed, left, and Ahmed, right (all photos: Noelle Rich)

April 2022—August 2023

David Rich, Life Member, Dolphin Club (33 years)

In 2019, the World Open Water Swimming Association (WOWSA) nominated David Rich for the "Offering of the Year Award" to honor his marathon swimming concept: The Ancient Seven Seas. Various cultures at different times have referred to bodies of water along trade routes as The Seven Seas. The notion entered Western consciousness from Greek literature mostly centered around Mediterranean waters. David's choice of seas and track record of marathon swims in these waters include:

10 km in the Arabian Sea: Ras Al Hamra, Oman, April 8, 2022 in 3 hours, 17 minutes

10 km in the Red Sea, Hurghada, Egypt, April 16, 2022 in 2 hours, 56 minutes

10 km in the Mediterranean Sea—Majorca, Spain, June 2, 2022 in 3 hours, 2 minutes

11 km in the Adriatic Sea, Split, Croatia, May 26, 2023 in 2 hours, 43 minutes

10 km in the Black Sea, Kilyos, Turkey, June 1, 2023 in 2 hours, 42 minutes

10 km in the Aegean Sea, Rhodes, Greece, July 11, 2023 in 3 hours, 29 minutes

14 km in the North Sea, Deal, England, August 26, 2023 in 2 hours, 47 minutes

David provides the following description of his exploits:

Over the past 30 years, I've been interested in doing open water swims as much for the adventure and historical context of the swim locations as for the challenge of an endurance swim. I've been drawn to pioneering or exploring new swim challenges around the world before they are widely known.

For example, I swam across the Dardanelles Strait in Turkey that separates Europe from Asia in 1993 before cross-continental swims became international events. The same for the Strait of Gibraltar which connects Europe (Spain) and Africa (Morocco) which I swam in 2005.

It was at the Dolphin Club over 25 years ago that the idea of the Seven Seas swim came to me. People sailed the Seven Seas, why not swim them? It would be a series of adventures to many parts of the world to experience new cultures, people, and seas. I did research on the Seven Seas and found a rich history, but had to file it away. Living in San Francisco at the time made the distance and cost to reach these destinations, which are located in Europe and the Middle East, unrealistic at the time.

The inspiration for this project came from Lewis Pugh, the British environmental campaigner and ultra-marathon swimmer. In August 2014, he created

and completed the WOWSA-recognized project "Seven Swims In The Seven Seas For 1 Reason" to bring awareness to the need for ocean conservation and marine-protected areas around the world.

I met Lewis in 2019 and after a discussion about his Seven Seas swim, I proposed it as a new marathon swim challenge which the World Open Water Swimming Association recognized in 2019. I thought a swim challenge of more obtainable distances (10km marathons) as an alternative to the ultra-marathon distances (30-40km+) of the existing Oceans Seven campaign would appeal to a broader range of people.

With a move to London in 2020, I was within geographic reach of the seven seas and the opportunity to achieve my swimming goal. After the world came out of COVID, I realized it was now or never, so I jumped on the challenge starting in April 2022.

I faced three major hurdles throughout this 16-month journey.

While these swims were marathon swim distances of 10km and required training, logistics was the biggest obstacle I had to overcome! Traveling to 7 countries in the Middle East, Europe, and the UK over 5 separate trips in 16 months required a lot of planning across flights, hotels, and swim locations. I also needed to accommodate my work schedule as a marketing executive for a global technology company.

Second, this challenge took me to seas where there were no governing swimming organizations. A good example is the Channel Swimming Association, which provides a wide range of information and support for those who want to cross the English Channel. While Lewis shared some helpful insights, I was largely on my own to select a location in the sea for each swim: find a boat, captain, and crew; and chart a course based on currents and tides in each country. This was trial and error, and I optimized my planning and approach as this journey went along. I reached out to swimmers for advice through online swimming forums and networks, which yielded some helpful support, but information was still limited since these were new solo swims.

Muscat, Oman on the Arabian Sea

The last challenge was communications. English was not the first language for most of these boat captains or crew, and they had never piloted a long-distance swimmer before. It took a little time to explain that I didn't want to rent their boat to fish, scuba dive, or to snorkel, but simply swim for over 3 hours alongside it. When they got the concept of the Seven Seas swims, the captains and crew were excited to support my goal. At times, it felt like a comedy as we attempted to speak in broken sentences and hand gestures while pointing at images of coastal maps on my phone to determine where to swim and the direction of the current. We didn't always get this right. What follows are my notes on some of these adventures.

Oman—the Arabian Sea, first of the seven swims

A British swimmer living in Oman, who responded to my request for information through an online swim forum, suggested we start 2 miles offshore from Al Fahal Island, swim toward land, and then south along the coast. My Omani captain and Pakistani crew member understood those directions after pointing to the island on a map on my phone and then waving my arms south. Beyond that, they had little ability to aid me as a distance swimmer. I was glad the captain waited until after I finished the swim to tell me that Al Fahal Island where I started the 10k is also called Shark Island, for a reason.

My wife, who was my support on each swim, enjoyed discussing with the crew their daily lives as fishermen and boat pilots in Oman. In fact, this was the best part of these swims for Noelle as she struck up conversations with each crew to learn about local customs and life in each country. After the swim, the proud Omani captain motored us past his little coastal village to show us his rustic house by the shore where he and his wife and 8 kids lived.

David swims along the island of Rhodes past Lindos Temple

Egypt—the Red Sea

This swim was like a comedy on the Red Sea. Originally, I signed up for a 10km race in the Red Sea to give me a break from the logistics and planning. The night before the race, I learned it consisted of swimming laps in a small cove near the hotel. I thought there's no way I've come all this way to Egypt to not swim out over the famous coral reefs and sea life in the Red Sea. So, I scrambled with the help of the hotel manager to find a marina that could rent me a boat with a captain. The next morning, we went to the marina at 8AM ready to go, only to learn that things move at a different pace in Hurghada, Egypt. The first boat they offered me the night before had engine trouble and would not be available. The second boat they offered could accommodate 40 people and was far too big. The third boat was a small RIB-style boat that was just right, and finally, a few hours later, we were off.

The blue waters felt magical, and were incredibly clear with colorful coral reefs, and underwater caves and vistas. There was a variety of marine life and at one point a pod of dolphins escorted me for about 10 minutes. The water was quite warm at 78F.

Two hours into the swim, the engine of the third boat stopped working. A fourth boat was called to come out and fix the engine. At that point, the captain told me just to keep swimming and that they would catch up to me when the engine was fixed. With no estimate of when that would be, and no swim float for safety on the vast Red Sea, I chose the rational solution and treaded water nearby.

The best moment was floating next to the boat and fully appreciating that I was swimming in the Red Sea, the cradle of ancient civilization and religion. All the while, three men frantically worked to fix the engine. It also dawned on me that Ramadan, Easter, and Passover were being celebrated on that same day, just as they had for thousands of years in that part of the world.

Black Sea—Turkey

I put this swim off for a year due to the war in Ukraine. Though I was going to swim my 10k course about 200 miles south of the fighting, the conflict loomed in my mind. I dedicated that swim to the people of Ukraine.

This swim was an example of meeting local people and swimmers along the way who shared the same passion for endurance swims in the sea. It was difficult to find a boat, captain, and location within an hour of Istanbul where we were staying. I was able to get an online introduction from a swimmer on the island of Mauritius who knew a swimmer in Istanbul who might be able to help me.

Sure enough, the Turkish swimmer, Kamil, was not only an accomplished long-distance swimmer (first Turk to complete the Triple Crown), but a swim organizer. He coordinated the boat, captain, and swim course off the north coast of Turkey, and then hosted me and my wife for a wonderful Turkish breakfast overlooking the Black Sea after the swim. These connections along the journey resulted in new friends and fun memories that made this whole endeavor special.

Aegean Sea—Rhodes, Greece

This was by far the most torturous of the swims, not only due to the windy conditions and strong currents, but also because the raging winds of 25-30 knots pushed my swim out 3 days in a row. With one day left on Rhodes,

I changed my plane home to London to get one more attempt to swim.

The day of the swim started with mild winds at 7-9 knots, and some rolling swells, but the forecast called for the winds to die down as the morning went along, so I jumped in and took off. As I passed the ancient Greek acropolis from 280 B.C. high on the cliff outside the town of Lindos, I was once again reminded of the historic context that makes the Ancient Seven Seas so unique.

Over the first 2 hours it became clear that things had become worse instead of better. Violent conditions had moved in and we found ourselves in 6-7 foot swells with large white caps breaking, and howling wind. It was the first time in a solo swim that I was more concerned about the crew in the boat than myself. I could see the small boat bouncing off the waves and knew it was tough for them to safely stay near me without getting swamped by waves. It was at that point, as well, that my son, Dillon, called out that I had been swimming in place for the last 20 minutes. The current had apparently changed course and was now heading straight into the wind creating major turbulence. The skipper's boss was on the radio and wanted us to abort the swim and come back as he thought the conditions were too dangerous. Noelle intervened, knowing that this was my last shot to complete the swim, and convinced the skipper to stay out there with me.

After a few minutes of yelling across the waves and wind, we agreed to turn and head directly to the coast where there was a series of small islands that might provide some break from the wind. We banged our way through the waves and eventually got to a semi-sheltered section of the coast. By this time, the rough conditions had taken a toll on me, but I got through the final hour and a half to complete the Aegean swim in 3 hours and 29 minutes.

It was 1PM and we had a flight home to London scheduled to leave in a few hours. We quickly motored back to shore, said our goodbyes,

Two Turkish swimmers, Kamil Resa Alsaran the first Turk to complete the Triple Crown and Ayse Yasemin Bagana, another long distance swimmer, joined David and Noelle for breakfast overlooking the Black Sea

and jumped in the car for the hour drive back to the hotel. We collected our luggage, raced the rental back to the airport and jumped on a plane to London. When we arrived home around 11PM, rather than celebrate the completion of the Ancient Seven Seas, we went straight to bed!

The WOWSA Offering of the Year nomination reads, "The Oceans Seven is a difficult challenge that has attracted some of the world's foremost channel swimmers—only 18 have completed it to date. A new swim challenge, the Ancient Seven Seas offers a similar global concept, with the goal of inspiring and expanding participation through more accessible marathon swims. At a minimum of 10 kilometers in each of the Ancient Seven Seas (Mediterranean Sea, Adriatic Sea, Aegean Sea, Black Sea, Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and North Sea), this unassisted solo challenge takes swimmers through the cradle of civilization with different cultures, religions, and views. Swimmers can select and create their own preferred courses in the Seven Seas and do not necessarily need to be shore-to-shore or point-to-point. For building bridges with other cultures while interacting around a common love of the oceans and swimming; for creating a serious yet accessible marathon adventure, in terms of time and training, that enables more swimmers to participate; and for advancing the long history and concept of the Seven Seas, The Ancient Seven Seas challenge proposed by David Rich is a worthy nominee for the 2019 World Open Water Swimming Offering of the Year."

Pending ratification by the World Open Water Swimming Association (WOWSA), David Rich will become the first American, and second swimmer after Lewis Pugh, to have completed the Ancient Seven Seas.

The Dolphin Village Nurtures a Neophyte in the Bay

New Dolphin, Oliver Fader, acknowledges his guide, Alex Migo, who accompanied him on many of his swims last summer as Oliver (in training for nothing) blew past the Club's existing summer swim record, swimming 500 miles in five months! Photo by Tim Dunn

Oliver Fader spoke at the 2023 DC Pilot Appreciation Dinner after completing the most miles in the "Polar Bear" [190mi] and 100mi Swim [500mi], breaking Kim Chambers' previous record of 443mi.

Oliver Fader

"Oliver, I want you to win this so badly" were the words Sean Lavelle uttered before helping me complete 16.5mi in two days in order and win the "100 mile swim" my first year in the Club—my second year swimming. Mickey Lavelle was there to cross the finish line in the dark to complete a 9.5mi day and secure the win. It was the biggest thing I had ever done in my life—and it was the first time I was exposed to how much one could get done with the help of others—something that did not come easily to me—even just asking for it.

This is what makes the Club so special. It can transform some lost insane person who does not even know how to freestyle into a less insane person who can swim 500 miles their second time doing a Club challenge. There were a lot of people that thought this feat alone was incredible—but truly it was the magic of the Club that made it possible.

A friend (non-swimmer) asked me what made me go from swimming a few flags from the beach when I would jump in while out running—to multiple swims—and miles—each day. The attempt at a short answer is: magic of the Club, friendship and connection. The shared insanity.

Swimming was the easy part. This pursuit was very much an emotional and psychological one.

The summer challenge that is drawn out over five months was the perfect protracted effort to manifest an odyssey to work thru all the pain and sadness that I had forever carried as anger. All about the journey: never the cup nor the destination.

There were so many fun stories and experiences along the journey. To come from two decades of running with snakes and wolves in a town I have never left since I was born—and find people who wanted to see others succeed and also maybe be a part of the success. People willing to be generous and not jealous.

After Duke made the announcement on the listserv that I was going to beat his "Polar Bear" record there was no turning back. I could not let all of these people helping me down—if the people I looked up to believed in me it was time that I believed in myself.

Having Duke as an example helped a great deal. This challenge was always approachable because it was nothing compared to the feat that my hero Duke had accomplished. I took comfort in knowing there was a titan like him to keep me humble and my goal in perspective. I did not even think it was possible

when he gave me the idea to go for the summer record, too.

Having Jari Salomaa take me under his wing for Jedi training over the course of a week in July—soloing Pyramid Rock my first time ever visiting China Beach he told me "you got this Oliver—I know what you are capable of." He told me to consider a Gas House round-trip naked under the light of the moon—"You think it is a good idea coach?" I asked him at the flag on my third trip of the day. He just looked at me and said, "I mean it is one crazy person talking to another crazy person."

Chris Wagner gave me exercises to better my stroke. He set the example of what a humble hard-working champion looks like, putting all those miles up in that brutal winter (2022-23), chasing first to 40.

Steve Schatz reassured me the attempt was physically possible and taught me how to maintain my body at that pace.

Peter Cullinan—my first Dolphin hero— I thought he was so cool coming off of PB with 155mi. I was the new guy in the sauna doing all I could to get to talk to him. Lawrence Remstedt was always there to give me advice—like get a real swimsuit—and to swim the 40th mile of my first PB.

John Mervin was the first to take me out of the Cove and be my first swim buddy. And take me through Farnsworth Gap.

Beth Stein was there to sift through all the emotions along the way and give me a hug.

Hoi Cheung braved far too many journeys through Farnsworth, backwards at low tide. And was there to have dinner with me, go over the day, and give me medical and swimming advice. A real friend helping me in so many ways, both in and out the water.

Mickey (Lavelle) for adopting me and taking my midnight phone calls—whenever I can get him to laugh I am elated and honored. I remember seeing him and Sean come back from swims and talk about all the routes and names—but also Prince talking about how much faster Mickey was than him! I looked up to them so much—and now I am blessed to call him my brother and Mickey my Fajah.

No matter how bad I was feeling a certain day I knew I would get to at least see John Ingle every day and give him a hug and catch up and learn how I am a dumbass.

For my uncle Phil Fernandez—for saving me and also the reason you all are stuck with me now. He told me to join the South End when I was reluctant to join a country club—"Best reverse sale of my life!" he said

Earl—like a Jedi master or Disney movie mentor— was one of the major figures to help me. He has been there to teach me lessons—and with courage to present the ones I don't want to hear about. Grateful to find someone else who also speaks in riddles. And understands realms where I am reluctant to go. He taught me that it is one thing to do something with what you are given—but it is climbing out of a hole that is the true sign of a champion.

The China Beach Titans for setting an example of what is possible.

Tor Lundgren telling me like an older brother or father figure over dinner (something I always wanted growing up)—"Oliver I think all that you are doing is nothing shy of amazing. This undertaking is incredible," was something I wanted all my life—coming from those I looked up to. To have people you admire be there to help and validate a noble pursuit that can seem like sheer madness when in the midst of it—especially one that draws out over five months—and not a single day can be taken off.

We are on the home stretch I promise—something I would tell myself swimming under the Fort Mason buildings.

To get my good friend to join the Club and have him there on those days when I was staring out the sauna window hoping no one could see my tears and have him put a hand on my shoulder and tell me "Bro—just let it all out. They do not know that this is just a small part of a much bigger picture of all you are working through."

And of course Dante could not have climbed out of Purgatory without the help of Virgil, my Queequeg, my brother from Russia—Alex Migo—who helped me chase windmills. Alex is on his board every day—a lot of times for both my swims. Being out there during a storm—chop, head-on headwinds and whitecaps—asking myself—"What the fuck am I doing out here?" When into my sight on my breathing side he comes paddling hard and fast hard looking like a romantic depiction from the Bible or Ancient Greece—feet planted, shoulders fighting forward, hair blowing, bright teeth grinning and his paddle looking like it was about to snap. He did not need to be out there but he was. From August onwards he was with me every day: if not on the board, making sure I got down to the club and back safely. Even if it meant a spontaneous unplanned round trip to Alcatraz. (I'm sorry—I didn't break any Club rules) I was "warm and dry" when I got back.

From our little club on the banks of the Barbary Coast, let us not lose sight of our mission. We are not a group that solves the world's problems, except we already do that with the bonds and love we share for each other, as well as the foolish masochistic pointless pursuit of swimming in the cold waters of the Bay.

I am so very grateful to be a part of this club and all of the people who have welcomed me into their lives as a friend and as the family I have always longed for. From the bottom of my heart I cannot thank you enough.

I will forever hold it down for the Odd Pod, the Dolphin Club, and the streets of San Francisco. And I will leave you with a quote:

"They say the best men are molded out of faults and most become much better for being a little bad."

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20

EMBERS

024

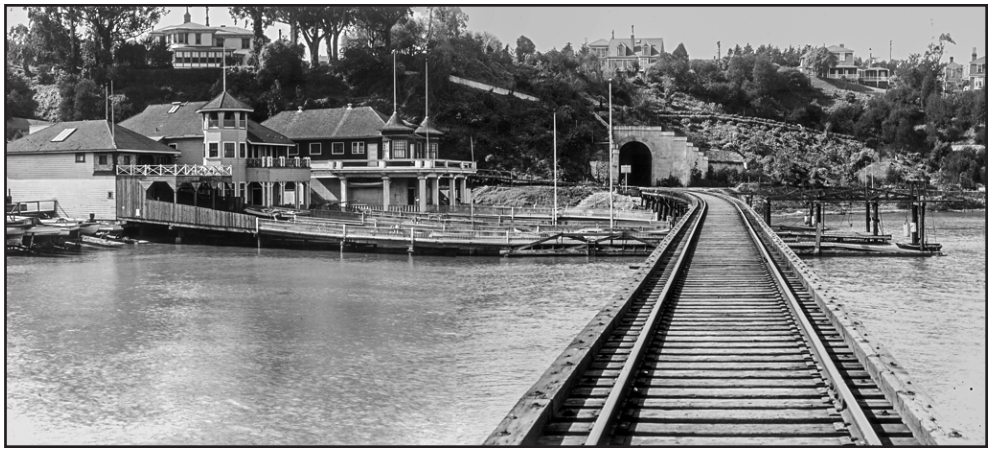
Photo: Colin Gift

About Those Tracks

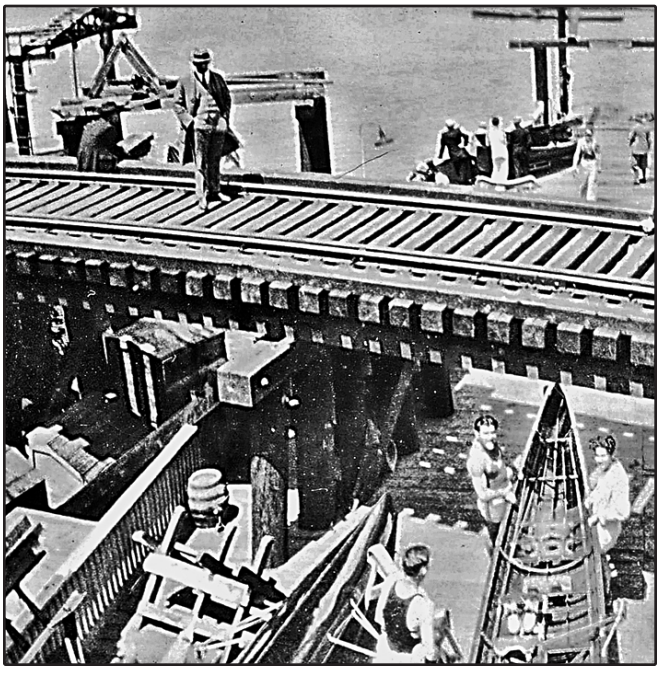
Richard Cooper

Do you know the story, the story of the railroad tracks on Jefferson Street in front of the Dolphin Club? It's about the State Belt Railroad interwoven with the story of our club.

In 1889 the State of California Harbor Commission approved construction of a railroad switching line to move freight cars to and from the waterfront piers and warehouses within the city of San Francisco. It became operational two years later. Tracks initially ran along the waterfront from Pier 46 to Hyde Street. Eventually, sixty-seven miles of rails serviced all the piers and many businesses on side streets branching from the main route along the Embarcadero.



In 1896 the Dolphin Club moved into a new boathouse on the western side of Black Point Cove (now Aquatic Park). A dozen years later the South End and Ariel Clubs became neighbors.



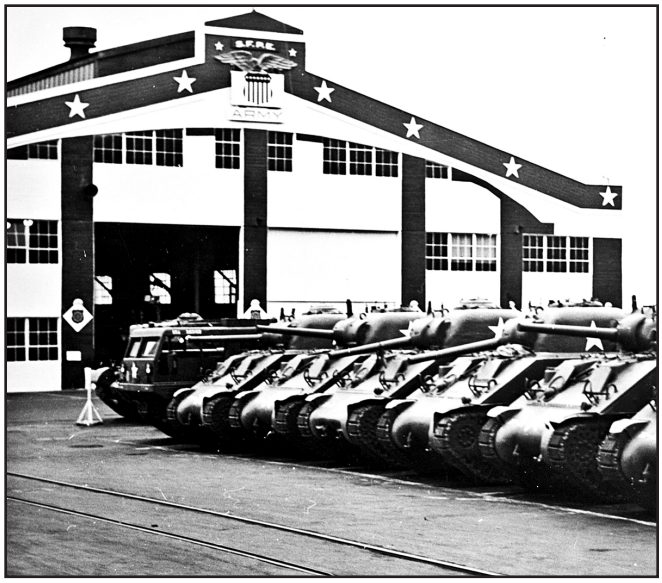
The three rowing clubs enjoyed the quiet and sheltered location with unobstructed views until 1913. Then the railroad was extended west from Hyde Street on a trestle across the cove and over the clubs' piers to a new tunnel under Fort Mason. The extension was needed to build the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition to be held in the Marina District.

Imagine views being spoiled and trying to hold regattas or enjoy social events with trains thundering by belching smoke and soot.

By 1921 most of the rail trestle had been dismantled and tracks relocated on the southern border of Aquatic Park. However, a short section remained over our piers until 1927 when the boathouses were moved to the beach area between Polk and Larkin Streets. Ten years later they would be moved again to their current locations.

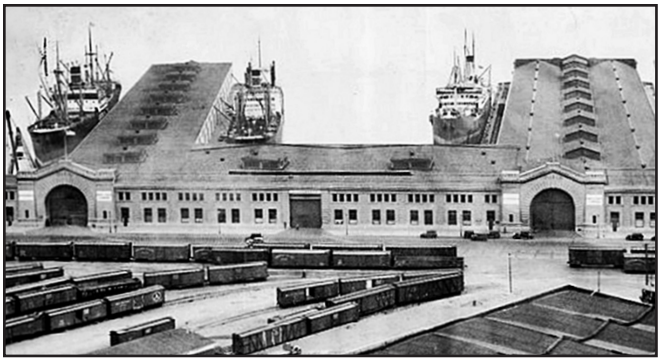
Engine No. 9 joined the line in 1920. It's shown here by the Ferry Building in the 1930s.

From 1941 to 1945 the State Belt Railroad and Fort Mason piers were extremely important in supplying the WWII war effort in the Pacific. In addition to military cargo the railroad moved over 600 troop and 500 hospital trains.



Tanks at Fort Mason waiting for shipment to the Pacific during WWII.

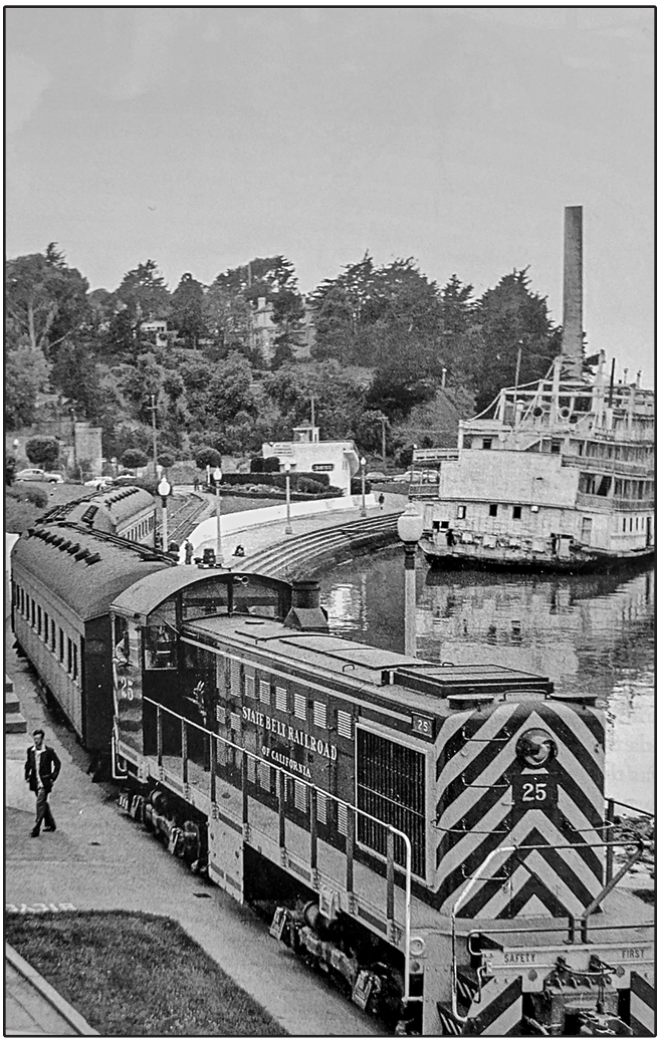
During the Korean War the system became active again. Dolphin Club old timers remember trains loaded with heavy equipment rumbling past the club on Jefferson Street.



Trains and box cars on sidings in 1934 along the Embarcadero by Piers 31 and 29.

Diesel electric locomotives replaced the last remining steam engines in 1945, but ocean shipping began transitioning to containers in the 1950's. The San Francisco piers, designed for cargo to be offloaded to railcars, became obsolete as well as the rail system that serviced them. The system continued to operate but in a diminishing capacity.

The photo below shows a train in Aquatic Park in 1956. In the background is the controversial riverboat, the *Fort Sutter*, which was set on fire in 1959 by rowing club members, supposedly.



The Military deactivated the Fort Mason piers for shipping in 1966, and in 1968 the State of California took the railroad out of service. The city then purchased the Port from the state, and the rail system was renamed the San Francisco Belt Railroad.

The railroad's demise was hastened by the establishment of GGNRA in 1972 and finally by the Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989. By 1993 the Belt Line was out of business. The Embarcadero was remade into a modern open boulevard and the surrounding streets converted from industrial to office and residential areas. Rail siding yards along the Embarcadero became parking lots. At its peak the railroad had delivered goods to and from nearly 200 industrial plants and warehouses.

A last bit of fame came back in 1975. To celebrate the nation's bicentennial the American Freedom Train toured the country and stopped in San Francisco. It was a rolling museum of the nation's historic artifacts and was parked for display in Aquatic Park and along the Marina Green.

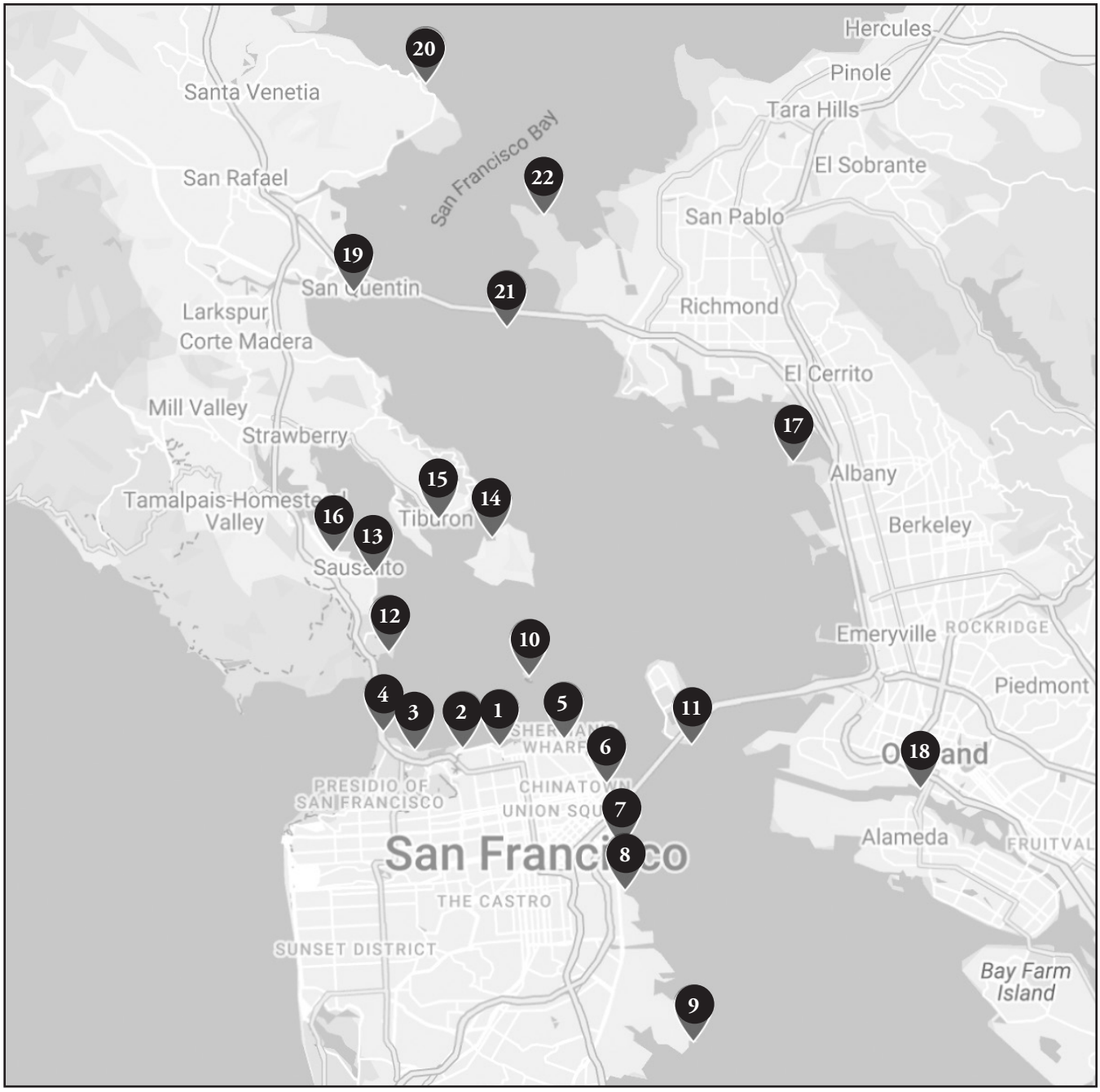
By 2018 essentially all rail tracks had been removed or paved over along the Marina Green, Fishermen's Wharf, and the promenade in front of the Aquatic Park Maritime Museum and bleachers.

Only the tracks by the Dolphin Club and a few others survive, for now, to help us recall the story.

Dolphins and the Freedom Train

Aquatic Park, December 13, 1975

Back Row L to R: Herman Zahler, Dennis Bennet, James Vanya, Mickey Lavelle, Steve Wolf, Forrest Fulton, Tom Dougherty, Unknown, Allie Bogart, Mike McElligott
Front Row L to R: Al Casciato, Bill Walden, Mickey Griffin, Joe Giacomini, Tom Gould, Lou Marcelli, Bert Arias, Lawton Hughes, Pete Sturiale



Rowing destinations on San Francisco Bay

Rowing Destinations to Hidden Gems of San Francisco Bay

Neal Mueller

The San Francisco Bay offers a rowing experience unlike any other. From the serene mornings to adventurous all-day excursions, each stroke of the oar brings a new perspective of the Bay's vast beauty. Rowing here is about physical endurance and connecting with the rhythm of the water. The rhythmic motion of rowing strengthens your body and calms your mind, making it a perfect escape.

Since 1877, Club members have made impressive distance rows to explore most of the Bay.

Jon Bielinski has rowed with teams to Sacramento over thirty times. Some have rowed to Sacramento solo: Reuben Hechanova and Renee DeCossio. Marcus Auerbuch makes an almost daily pilgrimage to the Golden Gate Bridge in his favorite boat, the *Austin*.

There are many others whose stories are best held and heralded in past and future *Dolphin Logs*, and Pilot Dinners.

San Francisco Bay is one of the world's finest natural harbors. with space enough to fit Manhattan inside and room to spare. There are hundreds of viable destinations. Some spots are so captivating we find ourselves returning again and again.

Three tips for new distance rowers:

Use tide/current tables to depart when the flood or ebb tides are favorable to your route.

Depart very early in the morning. Wind and waves increase in the afternoon.

Look for floating debris after flood tides, especially King Tides

Distance rowers pack PFD, food, water, horn, radio, bailer, gloves, shades, and jacket.

For all-day rows, consider extra tiger balm for the oar locks.

For multi-day rows, consider mineral oil for the seat wheels.

For a slow dry row, consider a wooden boat. For a fast wet row, try a plastic boat

Consider a cox for someone to look ahead to steer and spot, and to be a relief rower

Crossing the Bay is dangerous. People have gotten hurt out there, all alone, within sight of downtown.

Talk to people who have done the route, then get permission from the Rowing Commissioner

In the chart to the right are our favorite SF Bay distance rows.

Distances and times are very approximate, based on a speed of 3 knots (3.5 mph). Actual times will vary. Factor in additional time for zigzagging, wind, currents, adjustments, photography, snacks, and rest.

Reuben Hechanova has been to all these destinations and is a great source of guidance. So has this author.

If any of these destinations strike your fancy, we recommend you find a potential rowing buddy (for safety), get tips from a veteran distance rower, get the Commissioner's permission, and grab your oars to set out on a distance row adventure. Happy rowing!

#	Destination	Duration	Roundtrip mileage	Roundtrip rowing time (3 knots, slack tide, no wind, no stops)
	TOWARD GOLDEN GATE			
1	Gas House Cove	Morning	1 mile	1 hour
2	Dynamo Donuts	Morning	4 miles	2 hours
3	Crissy Field	Morning	5 miles	2 hours
4	Fort Point and GGB	Morning	6 miles	2 hours
	TOWARD BAY BRIDGE			
5	Pier 39	Morning	3 miles	2 hours
6	Ferry Building	Morning	4 miles	3 hours
7	Oracle Park	Morning	6 miles	4 hours
8	The Ramp Restaurant	Morning/All-day	8 miles	4 hours
9	Hunter's Point Gantry Crane	All-day	12 miles	4 hours
	CROSSINGS			
10	Alcatraz	Morning	3 miles	1 hour
11	Yerba Buena Lighthouse	Morning/All-day	6 miles	2 hours
12	Cavallo Point, Travis Marina, Horseshoe Cove	Morning/All-day	7 miles	3 hours
13	Sausalito	Morning/All-day	8 miles	3 hours
14	Angel Island	All-day	9 miles	3 hours
15	Ayala Cove	All-day	10 miles	4 hours
16	Bay Model Visitors Center	All-day	10 miles	4 hours
17	Albany Bulb (north of Berkeley)	All-day	14 miles	5 hours
18	Alameda	All-day	12 miles	4 hours
19	San Quentin Prison	All-day	16 miles	6 hours
20	China Camp	All-day	24 miles	8 hours
21	Red Rock Island	All-day	20 miles	8 hours
22	East Brother Lighthouse and Point San Pablo Marina	All-day	24 miles	8 hours
	Ghost Fleet	All-day/ Multi-day	30 miles	10 hours
	Petaluma	Multi-day	40 miles	2 days
	Napa	Multi-day	60 miles	2-3 days
	Redwood City	Multi-day	60 miles	2-3 days
	Collinsville	Multi-day	80 miles	2-4 days
	Sacramento	Multi-day	100 miles (one-way)	3-5 days

Dolphin Club Swim Results—Spring 2024

New Year's Day Alcatraz/Cove—January 1, 2024

Thanks to SERC for hosting their annual New Year's Day Alcatraz swim and maintaining the tradition of our two clubs starting the year together. This swim was not timed. Conditions were beautiful and the jump was right on slack with a slight flood rising as the swim progressed.

Dolphin Club swimmers completing the crossing from Alcatraz

Gary Arabatyan, Lauren Au Brinkmeyer, Regina Bianucci Rus, Tom Brown, Ben Chun, Jeffrey Citron, Daniel DeLeon, Kathleen Duffy, Elspeth Farmer, Joe Ferrero, John Gibbon, Marci Glazer, Lewis Haidt, Ernst Halperin, Robin Hart, Ryan Hedum, David Holscher, Kati Hopman, Mackenzie Kirk, Keira Koss-Baker, Heather Kremer, Sean Lavelle, Alice Ma, Alix Marduel, Sean McFadden, John Melcher, Mike Mitchell, Devan Nielsen, Greg Norris, Anne Obendorf, Anna Olsen, David O'Reilly, Eric Reed, Lawrence Remstedt, Miranda Rouse, Anna Schatz, Wendy Schuss, Kala Sherman-Presser, Ally Sillins, Joe Spallone, Elizabeth Stein, Andy Stone, Michael Tschantz-Hahn, Laura Vartain, Mitch Witek

Pilots (kayak and wooden)

Susan Allen, Marcus Auerbuch, Jon Bielinski, Catherine Breed, Barbara Byrnes, George Chamales, Karin Christenson, Barry Christian, Ken Coren, James Dilworth, Tony Foe, Diane Jackson, Charmaine Leonard, Dominic Lusinchi, Tom McCall, Sunny McKee, Dolores Meehan, Raine O'Conner, Don Osborne, Holly Reed, John Robiola, Tobias Sieg, Willis Stebbins, Pete Strietmann, Sara Wessen Chang, Lisa Weaver, Dave Zovickian

Motorized Pilots

Nathaniel Berger, Tim Kruetzen, Will Kushner, Tim McElligott, Abby Mohan, Joseph Omran, Nihan Tiryaki, Diane Walton, Ramsey Williams, Eric Wind, Sharon Wong

Test Swimmer

Peter Cullinan

Test Swim Pilots

Nathaniel Berger, Ben Chun, Tim McElligott

New Year's Day Cove Swimmers

Bonnie Jacobson, Morgan Kulla, Marie Sayles, Jim Frew, Robin Rome, Will Powning, Era Osibe, Chloe Noonan, Janice Wood

Sustenance and Caffeine

Alix Marduel, Sue Garfield

Pier 41 Swim—January 20, 2024

During a break in the stormy weather and rain, 49 swimmers braved the winter water and all completed the swim. Thanks to all the helpers and pilots who made the swim possible.

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Mackenzie Kirk	0:18:00	10
2	Miranda Rouse	0:18:09	9
3	Lauren Au Brinkmeyer	0:18:20	8
4	Michael Tschantz-Hahn	0:19:22	7
5	Timothy Peter McElligott	0:19:34	6
6	Stephen Schatz	0:19:35	5
7	Thorsten Anderson	0:19:39	4
8	Amanda Ernzer	0:19:59	3
9	Christophe Crombez	0:20:17	2
10	Jeffrey Citron	0:20:41	1
11	Peter Bartu	0:20:59	
12	Bill Brick	0:21:40	
13	Devan Nielsen	0:21:46	
14	Heather Kremer	0:21:57	
15	George Morris	0:22:55	
16	Ben Hu	0:23:06	
17	David O'Reilly	0:23:24	
18	Colin McMahon	0:23:26	
19	Erik Cufino	0:23:32	
20	Tom Bernard	0:23:56	
21	Morgan Kulla	0:24:00	
22	Lawrence Remstedt	0:24:09	
23	Tony Payne	0:24:10	
24	Erin Gasser	0:24:18	
25	Mickey Lavelle	0:24:22	
26	Joseph Spallone	0:24:33	
27	Nicholas Churcher	0:24:36	
28	Julian Sapirstein	0:25:18	
29	Ryan Hedum	0:25:23	
30	Ernst Halperin	0:26:03	
31	Andrew Nance	0:26:12	
32	Henry Dombey	0:26:26	
33	Laure Darcy	0:26:26	
34	Wafaa Sabil	0:27:13	
35	Mark F Lenz	0:27:25	
36	Kathleen Duffy	0:27:43	
37	Andrew J Stone	0:27:52	
38	Ken Coren	0:28:13	
39	David Meyer	0:28:18	
40	R. Farrah Spott	0:28:34	
41	Jim Frew	0:29:31	
42	Mike Mitchell	0:29:49	
43	Ken Miller	0:30:05	
44	Maxwell Audette	0:30:23	
45	Robin Hart	0:30:53	
46	William Burke	0:31:41	
47	Robin Rome	0:31:43	
48	Will Powning	0:33:10	
49	Michael Barber	0:38:10	

Pilots

Lilian Tsai, Dominic Lusinchi, Brendan Sheehan, Grant Mays, Nanda Palmieri, John Thorpe, William Schroeder, John Robiola, Sharon Wong, Tom McCall, Rachele Mechem, Jon Bielinski, Tony Foe, Susan Allen, Holly Reed, Barbara Byrnes, Maryann Murphy, Marlin Gilbert, Kristoffer Milonas, Rainer O Conner, Tom Davis, Cyrus Namder

Motorized Pilots

Tim Kreutzen, Radha Tomassetti, Ben Chun, Steve Carlson, Nihan Tiryaki, David Buchanan

Helpers

Eric Shupert, Wafaa Sabil, Keith Nelson, Kathleen Duffy, Sheila Gleeson, Rick Silvestrini, Stephanie McGee, Elaine Van Vleck, Elspeth Farmer, Cynthia Cristilli, Janice Wood, Tamar Besson, Juliet Cox, Laura Merkl, Tomasso Trionfi, Diane Campbell, JB Melcher, Ruby Lipscomb, Alix Marduel, Lawrence Remstedt, Maryann Murphy, Tom Bernard, Erin Gasser, Joni Beemsterboer, Steve Carlson, Bianca Liederer, Devan Nielsen, Farrah Spott, Thorsten Anderson, Robin Rome, Mike Mitchell, Morgan Kulla, Amy Brente Miranda Rouse, Mackenzie Kirk, Bill Burke, Marlin Gilbert, Sue Garfield, Mark Lenz

Test Swim

Tom McCall, Vince Huang, Dominic Lusinchi, Wafaa Sabil, Liz Kantor, Peter Cullinan, Alix Marduel, Diane Campbell, John Hornor, Hal Offen, Tim Kreutzen, Maeve Lavelle, Chris Wagner, Bobby Lu, Brendan Sheehan, Sue Garfield

Coghlan Beach (was Gashouse)—February 10, 2024

Our traditional route for this swim from Gashouse Cove Marina was not available to us this year. Swimming from Coghlan Beach provided a similar experience with cold air, clear skies, and 55-degree water. A good push from the flood made for a fast and fun swim for everyone! Those who finished have a qualifying swim for the Golden Gate and Alcatraz swims.

Place	Name	Swim time	LCP
1	Ben Zovickian	18.10	10
2	Mackenzie Kirk	18.24	9
3	Miranda Rouse	19.05	8
4	Lauren Au Brinkmeyer	19.25	7
5	Ryan Dalton	20.04	6
6	Michael Tschantz-Hahn	20.24	5
7	Steve Schatz	20.36	4
8	Amanda Ernzer	20.48	3
9	Johan Duramy	20.52	2
10	Steve Carlson	20.55	1
11	Christophe Crombez	21.00	
12	John Gibbon	21.33	
13	Cyrus Namdar	21.34	
14	Peter Bartu	21.46	
15	Alisha Kewalramani	21.52	
16	Anna Schatz	22.16	
17	Devin Nielsen	22.29	
18	Kristoffer Millonas	22.38	
19	George Morris	22.46	
20	Justin Hughs	22.55	
21	Eric Peterson	23. 17	
22	Gary Arabatayan	23.45	
23	Aniko Kurczinak	23.48	
24	Ryan Hedum	24.00	
25	David O'Reilly	24.14	
26	Tom Bernard	24.20	
27	Brooke Segaran	24.31	
28	Joe Spallone	24.33	
29	Nickalos Churcher	24.51	
30	Chris Kawaja	24.53	
31	Marie Sayles	24.57	
32	Morgan Kulla	25.02	
33	Peter Bostelmann	25.05	
34	Ernst Halpren	25.13	
35	Luke Whiting	25.19	
36	Colin McMahon	25.50	
37	Mitch Witek	25.24	
38	Joel Mendelson	25.33	
39	Sam Maslin	25.37	
40	Miguel Gonzalez	25.43	
41	Merryl Levy	25.49	
42	Joe Ferrero	26.02	
43	Lewis Haidt	26.10	
44	Elizabeth Ozer	26.15	
45	Lorenzo Carlisle	26.19	
46	Lindsey Bivings	26.22	
47	Laure Darcy	26.33	
48	Kerry Labelle	26.40	
49	Mark Lenz	26.45	
50	Andy Stone	26.53	
51	Dean Badessa	27.02	
52	Tamar Besson	27.32	
53	Nancy Booth	27.34	
54	Lisa Domitrovich	27.51	
55	Ken Coren	28.09	
56	Michael Thoresen	28.14	
57	Anne Obendorf	28.19	
58	PJ Masterson	28.44	
59	Keith Nelson	29.04	
60	Pete Neubauer	30.45	
61	Mickey Lavelle	30.56	
62	Will Powning	31.50	
63	Robin Hart	32.21	
64	Sheila Gleeson	32.39	
65	Joe Gannon	32.44	
66	Kati Hopman	33.14	

Pilots

Dave Nettell, Tom McCall, Tony Foe, John Ribiola, Phil Reiff, Stu Gannes, Diane Jackson, Lillian Tsai, Charmaine Leonard, Nanda Palmieri, Jim Frew, Grant Mays, Barry Christiansen, Joey Gracey, Jon Bielinski, Michelle Nguyen, Margaret Keenan, Bobby Lu, Brian Kiernan, Hal Nalph, Susan Allen, Steve Hanson, Jennifer Bruursema, Terry Horn, Barbara Byrnes, Dave Zovickian, Ben Chun, Lindsay Stripling, Maeve Lavelle, David Buchanan, Kellock Irvin, Sharon Wong, Chris Wagner, Tim McElligott, John Blackman, John Thorpe, Don Osborne, Raine O'Connor, Brendan Sheehan, Dominic Lusinchi, Pete Strietmann

Helpers

Eric Shupert, Sheila Gleeson, Keith Nelson, Don Thornberg, Lauren Au Brinkmeyer, Janine Corcoran, Denise Sauerteig, Rebecca Lee Whiting, Thorsten Anderson, Lissi Knell, George Morris, Sue Garfield, Andy Stone, Bill Burke, Robin Rome, Elspeth Farmer, Ben Hu, Emily Nogue, Holly Reed, Elmer Tosta, Sona Sondhi, Eliana Agudelo, Krist Jake, Steve Carlson, Morgan Kulla, Peter Cullinan, Will Powning, Ryan Hedum, Colin McMahon, Lorenzo Carlisle, Nanda Palmieri, Mike Mitchell, Jeff Ryan, Elizabeth Ozer, Lisa Domitrovich, Kerry LaBelle, Bianca Lederer, Madeline Crow, Cynthia Cristilli, Mark Lenz, Mary Cantini Norkin

Test Swim

Tom McCall, Vincent Huang, Lindzy Bivings, Liz Kantor, Sunny McKee, Jon Grunstad, Peter Cullinan, Lauren Au Brinkmeyer, Eliana Agudelo, Hal Offen, Diane Campbell, Michael Barber, Ben Chun, Lindsay Stripling, Ramsey Williams, Tim Kreutzen

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Want to show your art at the Dolphin Club?

Contact Laura Atkins (latkins05@gmail.com) or Morgan Kulla (northbeach3@yahoo.com)
Form and information in Files on groups.io "ART" Folder.

President Diane Walton with Julie Marcos, the host of a new series of podcasts: interviews with Club members. Link below.

President's Report, Spring 2024

Diane Walton, President

Julie Marcus is capturing Dolphins' stories in 15 minute bursts of creative conversation We are getting to know more about each other better because of her, so it seems only right that we get to know more about Julie, a joyful woman who loves this city and the Club.

If you already know Julie, it may be as a swimmer. Once upon a time, in the 1980s, after her initial daily swimming routine fell prey to life with family and business, fellow Dolphins called her "Wednesday" because that was the day, the only day, come rain or shine, winter or summer, she swam. She's also a writer and a reader (three books high on her current list: Still Life by Sarah Winman; A Woman in the Polar Night by Christine Ritter.; and Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland by Patrick Radden Keefe. She's a gourmet and a gourmand (fancy way to say she loves cooking AND eating well), a tennis player, a hiker, mom, wife, friend. Today, she swims Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings, with her fearsome foursome pod, known to one and all as "the Furies", and her new nickname is Julie Sunshine. Her optimism undergirds her love for San Francisco, and for our Club, and it fuels her commitment to action, to getting things done. Being in her company is like sitting on the deck with the sun pouring down: it warms more than just cold feet, it warms the soul.

Implementing creative ideas into practical form—the dictionary definition of Imagineering—and that is Julie's business name, a portmanteau of imagination and engineering, chosen when she co-founded her business in 1988. Her ongoing penchant for bringing ideas to life, practically, serves this story-telling adventure well. I remember in January 2024 when we first talked about how she might best give back to the Club, we focused on the wealth of stories all around us, and talked about how we might gather them in some creative and practical ways.

The first more ordinary thought was Julie would interview some people, put her writing skills to work for the Club. But it rapidly morphed into a different way to build our community through hearing each other's stories, via podcasts, which she had never done before. Now two months later, knowing the positive reaction to the four stories that are up as I write this, I wanted to know how it was measuring up for her. She's having a blast. She learned something new, the response is good, she continues to relish getting this window—a chance to hear these stories, combinations of grace and pain, and the consistent value of this place in our members' lives, in the midst of life's challenges, with the Club as the connective tissue that joins the stories.

Check it out! *https://dolphinclub.org/community/#2000-stories-id* And keep taking time with one another. We each have stories to tell. And time to listen. You all are fabulous.

The Dolphin Swimming
& Boating Club
502 Jefferson Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

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2024 DOLPHIN CLUB SWIM & EVENT SCHEDULE

Event	Day	Date	Current/Tide (Gg)	Jump
*Pier 41**	SAT	1/20	11:18 3.6 kn E	9:30
*Coghlan Beach swim**	SAT	2/10	9:54 2.6 kn F	8:30
Valentine's Day Singles Regatta	SUN	2/11		
Old Timers' Lunch	SUN	2/18		12:00
*Pier 39**	SAT	3/16	8:48 3.3 kn E	8:00
End of Polar Bear	THU	3/21		23:00
Start of Walt Stack Challenge	FRI	3/22		5:00
Angel Island Overnight	SAT	4/20		
*Coghlan Beach**	SAT	4/27	6:00 3.8 kn E	9:45
McCovey Cove Regatta	SAT	5/4		
Walt Schneebeli Over-60 Cove	SAT	5/11	6:18 4 kn E	9:00
End of Walt Stack Challenge	FRI	5/31		
*Yacht Harbor**	SAT	6/8	5:24. 4.1 kn E	9:00
Rowers Festival	TBA	TBA		
Start of 100 Mile Swim	SAT	6/1		
*Pride Swim**	SAT	6/22	4:06. 4.1 kn E	8:00
*John Nogue Swim For Science—Pier 15**	SAT	6/29	10:42 2.4 kn E	9:30
*Bay Bridge**	SAT	7/27	9:06. 2.5 kn E	7:30
Swim Clinic	SUN	8/4		8:00
*Doc Howard Gas House Cove**	SAT	8/10	8:36. 2.1 kn E	13:00
Santa Cruz Pier Swim	SAT & SUN	8/17-18		
*Baykeeper Swim**	SAT	8/31	9:42. 2.9 kn F	7:00
Swim Across America	SAT	9/14		
*DC/SE Interclub Tri**	SUN	9/15		8:30
Golden Gate	SAT	9/21	6:48. 2.8 kn E	9:15
*China Beach***	SAT	9/28	8:36. 2.6 kn F	7:00
Escape from Alcatraz Tri (EFAT)	SAT	10/5	6:12 2.2 kn E	7:30
SUP Regatta	SAT	10/12		
Angel Island Regatta	SAT	10/19		
Alcatraz	SAT	10/26	7:06. 2.2 kn F	9:00
End of 100 Mile Swim	THU	10/31		
Veterans Day Swim	SAT	11/9		9:00
Pilot Appreciation Dinner	SAT	11/9		18:00
Thanksgiving Day Cove	THU	11/28		
New Year's Day Qualifier & Holiday Brunch	SAT	12/14		
Start of Polar Bear	SAT	12/21		

** Qualifying Swim. Need 2 qualifying swims + 3 helps to qualify for Golden Gate and/or Alcatraz.*

Swim Program Rules

1. Club scheduled swims are restricted to Club members, who are current on their dues and fees and in good standing.
2. Swimmers must have current USMS membership, and abide by each organization's rules and requirements.
3. Swimmers are required to wear orange caps on all scheduled swims.
4. Swimmers cannot use swim aids, including fins and wet suits, on any scheduled swims.
5. New members are not eligible to swim in scheduled out-of-cove swims for either 6 months from the start of their membership, or before successfully completing the 100-mile swim, the Polar Bear swim, or the Accelerated Out-of-Cove process.
6. All out-of-cove swims require a pilot:swimmer ratio of 1:3.
7. Time limits may be imposed at the discretion of the Swim Commissioner(s).
8. All Club boats are reserved for scheduled swims. Co-pilots are encouraged. Riders are prohibited.
9. Swimmers must register during check-in and attend the swim briefing in order to swim.
10. Swimmers must successfully complete at least two qualifying swims and help on at least three swims to qualify for Alcatraz and Golden Gate Swims.
11. Out-of-town members must have successfully completed two of the last three Club scheduled Alcatraz and/or Golden Gate swims or meet Rule 10 above.

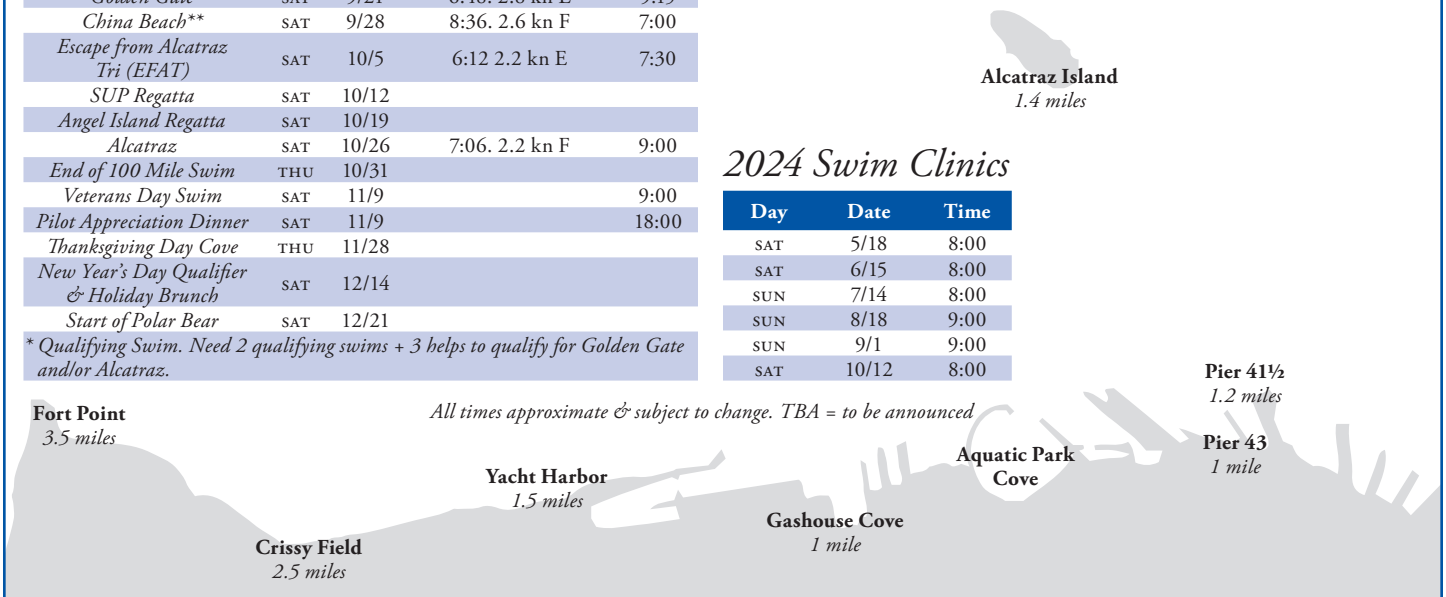
(Nothing in the above rules shall contravene any applicable Federal laws and statutes.)

*** Requires special qualifier, details TBA*

2024 Swim Clinics

Day	Date	Time
SAT	5/18	8:00
SAT	6/15	8:00
SUN	7/14	8:00
SUN	8/18	9:00
SUN	9/1	9:00
SAT	10/12	8:00

All times approximate & subject to change. TBA = to be announced



DOLPHIN LOG

The Bulletin of the Dolphin Swimming & Boating Club San Francisco Established 1877

Sea Scout skipper Tamara Sokolov under sail on the other *Viking*

Summer 2024

Dolphin Log

Keith Howell, *Editor*

Larry Scroggins, *Editor*

Michael Collett, *Art Director*

Janice Wood, *Proofreader*

Club Archivist

Morgan Kulla

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Editorial Policy

Submission of any and all material to the Log editors from any and all authors constitutes an agreement between the authors and the editors. This agreement gives to the editors the right to alter the submitted material in any way that the editors feel will improve the material for Log readers. Decisions to alter or publish submitted material will be the decision solely of the editors.

Officers

President: Diane Walton

Vice President: Ken Coren

Membership Director: Polly Rose

Treasurer: Tim McElligott

Recording Secretary: David Zovickian

House Captain: Tim Kreutzen

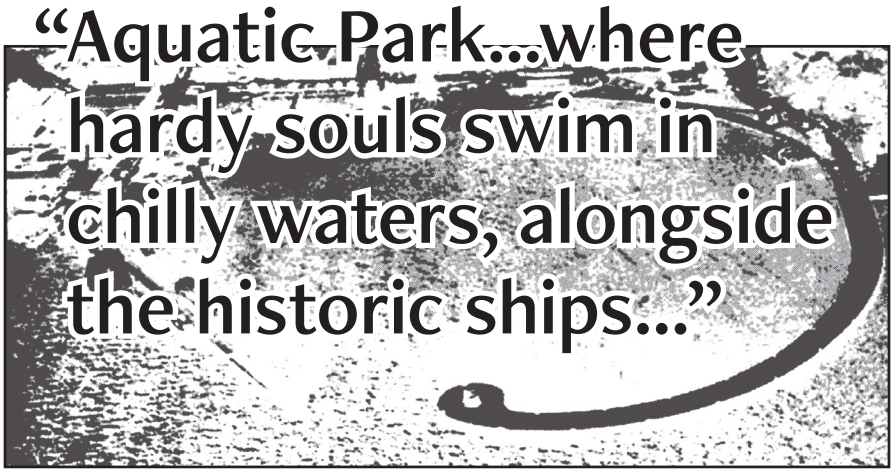
Boat Captain: John Robiola

Board of Governors

James Dilworth, Ward Bushee, Deborah Sherwood, John Hornor, Nathaniel Berger, Nanda Palmieri, Jari Salomaa, Janine Corcoran

Club Manager: John Ingle

Asst. Club Manager: Brendan Sheehan



—Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Shoreline Guide 1995

President's Report: Summer 2024

Diane Walton, President

Who are we, we hardy souls? From 1877's 25 German immigrants to June 2024's 2,105 members, we are people with a reverence for, and an itch to get in and/or on, the water. We cut a wide swath with our joy and our commitment to our City. and San Francisco Bay. We are figuring out, every day, how best to serve our members and our community. With the building renovation and other impactful actions we are creating more space to do what we do, including a third sauna. Having reached a comfortable capacity, we recently slowed growth to just ten new members each month. We all choose, and are so lucky, to be here, to be with each other, on the shore of this chilly-for-some Bay!

About those historic ships at Hyde Street Pier: Yes, they are still leaving for some indefinite time. First two ships scheduled to depart late summer or early fall.

Ideas, please! In 2027, we will celebrate the Club's 150th anniversary. We will celebrate in many ways, big and small, at the Club and in our City. How will you celebrate? What's your idea for 2027? 150-mile rowing challenge? 150+ dancing Dolphins on Jefferson Street? 150-mile category in the 100-mile swim? 150-mile Walt Stack Running Challenge? 150 handball matches? 150 volunteer hours? 150 stories up on our 2000 Stories platform? 150 ways to celebrate our pilots? 150 works of art, celebrating our time in and on the water? You get the idea: send your wish list to 1877-2027@dolphinclub.org.

Annual General Meeting:
6:30 pm, October 16th 2024

Commissioners:

Swimming

Swim Commissioners: Bobby Lu, Tim McElligott, Lindsay Stripling, Ben Chun **Check-in:** Eric Shupert **Clean-up:** Steve Carlson **Clothes Wrangling:** Janine Corcoran **Swim Trinkets:** Margaret Keenan **Timing:** Janice Wood, Emily Nogue, Tamar Besson **Galley Captain:** Alix Marduel **Swim Clinic Director:** Diane Campbell

Rowing

Wooden Fleet Commissioner: Nanda Palmieri **Lake Merced Captain:** Jim Storm, Rachael Perry **Kayak Training:** Nathaniel Berger, Terry Horn **Motorized Fleet Commissioner & Chief Pilot:** Nathaniel Berger **Non-Motorized piloting:** Terry Horn **Shell Training:** James Dilworth, Gabby Wong **Learn to Row:** Dominic Lusinchi, **Grizzly Challenge:** Zack McCune **SUP Training:** Raine O'Connor, Gary Leong **Boat Night:** Jon Bielinski, Julia Hechanova

Other Athletics

DC/SERC TRI Captain: Ward Bushee **EFAT:** Gina Rus **Handball Captain:** Brendan Managhan **Running Commissioner:** Anna Olsen **Weight Room Captain:** Deborah Sherwood

Lockers

Women's Captain: Crissa Williams **Men's Captain:** David Zovickian

News from the Archives: Celebrating 10 Years

Morgan Kulla

THIS AREA, THE EAST END OF THE
GOLDEN GATE PROMENADE,
IS MAINTAINED AS DEDICATED
PUBLIC ACCESS
TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY SHORELINE
BY THE DOLPHIN SWIMMING
AND BOATING CLUB.

There were errors in the caption of this photo on p. 2 of the Spring Log. It should read: "Artifact 313, visible on the sidewalk about 12 feet west from the SW corner of the Club."

In February 2014, several Club members met to brainstorm on what do with the boxes of paper files and the historic materials stashed all over the Club in closets and corners, unorganized and inaccessible. This was the first effort at a comprehensive Archives project, so we had to figure out each step as we went along. Luckily, we could build on earlier work to preserve Club records, notably by Frank Staib (Financial Secretary for almost 50 years), Walt Scheebeli (Club Historian 1960s to his death in 2017), Brian Gilpin (who did the first inventory of Club records in 1979) and Richard Cooper (who scanned and posted Logs on archive.org in 2011).

First, we gathered and sorted contents of almost 100 boxes and large binders full of paper, earwigs, dust, and rusty staples. This took three years. The next year, we photographed and cataloged over 300 artifacts. Then we scanned all the Board minutes and historic photographs. From 2014 to 2018, 47 volunteers attended one or more of 62 Sunday four-hour work days at the Club.

This totals over 1,000 volunteer hours, not counting many more hours done at home. Liz Kantor is the champion volunteer, attending almost 40 work days. Over 700 pounds of sensitive documents went to the shredder, and more to recycling. All materials were placed in new archival quality boxes and folders.

In 2018, the Archives regained possession of the oldest Club records and of Walt's own research files. This included copies of hundreds of newspaper articles from 1877 onward, ephemera, and the historic photographs. After a two-year search for a museum type database, in 2019 we chose CatalogIt. In spring 2020 we published the first Archives folders on the HUB, CatalogIt's internet platform, so members and the public can view the Archives. There are now over 2100 entries in CatalogIt.

We also handled many research requests from members and the public. See details in News from The Archives in the Spring 2023 and Summer 2023 Logs.

One big challenge is that in the last 15 years, most Club records were emails and digital documents, which unfortunately stayed on home computers. Now, I am very proactive trying to collect documents from current officers/Board. And I ask all who write reports to the Board to use the standardized naming/date format to facilitate filing. The digital document files are filling up slowly.

The Archives Project has made amazing progress toward its goals to organize, preserve, and make materials available. But much remains to do. When members ask me, "Are you finished with the Archives?" I just laugh and think, "You must be joking!"

For more information, see the 2024 Archives FAQ is on the Archives page of the Club website. All Archives reports to the Board are in the Files section of members' groups.io

Club House

Gardens: Susanne Friedrich, Andy Stone
Deck Landscape: Steve Krolik
Green Team: Janice Wood

Social

Entertainment Commish: Robin Rome
Club Mixer: Todd Bloch, Davis Ja
Joe Illick Forum: Krist Jake, Stuart Gannes
Ukulele Club: Carolyn Hui

Communications

Facebook: James Dilworth **Groups.io:** Ward Bushee
Instagram: Mackenzie Kirk, Anne Hamersky
Twitter/Mastodon: Nancy Friedman **2000 Stories:** Julie Marcus **Website Manager:** Laura Croome

Lost & Found

Club & Women's Locker Room: Piper Murakami **Men's Locker Room:** Hal Offen

Other

Volunteer Coordinator: Denise Sauerteig
Dolphin Foundation: Anthony DuComb
DC Youth Swim Fund: Laura Zovickian
Government: Ken Coren, Diane Walton
Renovation Committee: John Hornor, Peter van der Sterre **Save Aquatic Park Pier:** Diane Walton
Swag: John Ingle, Brendan Sheehan, Maile Smith

Our Other *Neighbors, the Sea Scouts*

Crew of the girls' boat, the Viking

Larry Scroggins

The 100-year history of the San Francisco Sea Scouts presents a cautionary tale that could have ensnared the Dolphin and South End swimming and boating clubs. Thanks to the pioneering women in the 1970s who insisted on joining the clubs, we dodged a bullet.

Tamara Sokolov came to Sea Scouting in the footsteps of her older brother. The family lived about a ten-minute walk away from the current Scout Base at the west end of Aquatic Park. At fourteen years old, her brother was raised as a "free range" kid and left the house one morning with only the strict admonition to "be home by dinner." As he walked by the Base, he saw a group of kids getting ready to go sailing and they invited him to go along. When he returned home, he regaled the family with his sea-faring adventure. As Tamara tells the story, "I'm from a family of five kids—pretty low income—and at the time, Sea Scouts was $60 a year so it became the one extra-curricular. All of us kids joined after that and went through the program. When I turned 21, I started running it and I'm still here." She is now the Skipper of Ship 100. In Sea Scout terms, a ship is the group equivalent to a Boy Scout "troop." She is also the Vice President on the executive committee of Scouting in the Bay Area.

The Sea Scouting program in San Francisco is one of the most vibrant in the country. The program currently has around 100 active scouts and, as reported by Heather Breaux in the August '23 edition of *Latitude 38*, "It's important that the families living in San Francisco understand that the Sea Scouts is a low-cost resource.

The wild joy and disciplined seamanship the kids possess from their time in Sea Scouts is an invaluable part of the continuing history of the waterfront." And the program wins national recognition. Ship 100 was recently honored with the 2023-2024 BoatUS National Flagship Award in recognition as the best Ship in the country. This honor is awarded not only for seamanship, but also for volunteer contribution to the community and leadership in water-based education. Among other contributions, at Tinsley Island in the Delta, Scouts from Ship 22 and Ship 100 helped to clear a former landslide site, retiled a roof, and installed a new sprinkler system. They provide nautical education to young kids at Aquatic Park on Junior Ranger Day and to visiting Cub Scouts throughout the year. The Scouts also provide volunteer services to the National Park Service. One recent example was a Quartermaster Service project in June 2024, when Scouts went aloft on the Balclutha to tar the rigging and help preserve the shrouds and stays of the masts.

The red Viking is the boat for the girls' Ship 100. The boys' vessel is the blue Corsair. Both boats started life in the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in the 1930s as lifeboats for an Indianapolis-class cruiser. The Navy donated the boats to the Scouts in the 1950s. Now known as whaleboats, these vessels have no motors, but can be sailed as well as rowed. However, unlike modern sailboats, the sheets do not lead aft where the tiller is located. This means that a crew must manage the sails. While the adult skippers provide supervision and guidance, the boats are commanded by a Sea Scout. Steve Welch, the current Commodore, says, "The real masterstroke of Sea Scouting is the leadership skills you get while you're having these adventures like sailing up the Delta on a two-week summer cruise, camping on islands." Tamara says, "We're cruising with 40 kids in 5 boats together and being able to run and play 'Capture the Flag' on an abandoned island. We don't allow any electronic devices. The kids go through weird withdrawals the first 48 hours. But two days into the cruise, they're playing cards; they're busting out ukuleles and singing. It's fun seeing teenagers act like kids again." With no motor, the kids sail back against the wind through the narrow Carquinez Strait sometimes doing as many as eleven tacks an hour and facing six-foot swells in San Pablo Bay.

Commodore Steve Welch came to the Sea Scouts when he was 14 years old. While picking up newspapers at 24th and Valencia for his paper route near his home in the Mission, a friend told him he'd heard that "boys sailed and rowed their own boats" on the Bay. Deciding to investigate, they rode two buses from the Mission to the Marina, walked through the Ft. Mason railroad tunnel, found a building they'd never seen before, and were promptly set to sanding a boat. Steve says, "It was such a cool experience that I came back every weekend all through high school" riding the buses for an hour each way. Initially afraid of the water, he soon "became a lifeguard, got jobs teaching small-boat sailing, and getting a pilot license at 16."

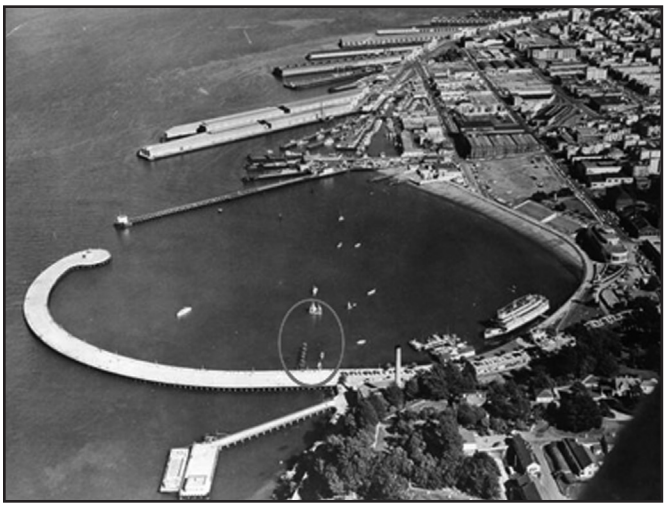
The SF Sea Scouts were originally based in Marina harbor in the 1920s along with the High School Cutter Program. In 1938, the Marina Harbor expansion caused the Scouts to move to Gas House Cove and the High School Cutter Program to move to the foot of Van Ness. With the start of WWII, the army was uncomfortable having a bunch of small boats roaming windward of their embarkation pier at Fort Mason. Fortunately, the Scouts were able to relocate to share the school district pier. They built little storage shacks near the Ft. Mason tunnel. A small gap in the Muni Pier parapet, now plugged with plywood, provided a gate to a gangway leading to floating docks and pilings that formed the pier at the foot of Van Ness Avenue. Many Dolphins now refer to this early scout location as "the goalposts." As WWII revved up, the Scouting program deteriorated significantly. Many adult leaders and older Scouts joined the Navy or Merchant Marine. The army posted sentries throughout the park, the motor pool area was fenced off, and Aquatic Park became "off-limits" to the public.

The boys' boat, the Corsair

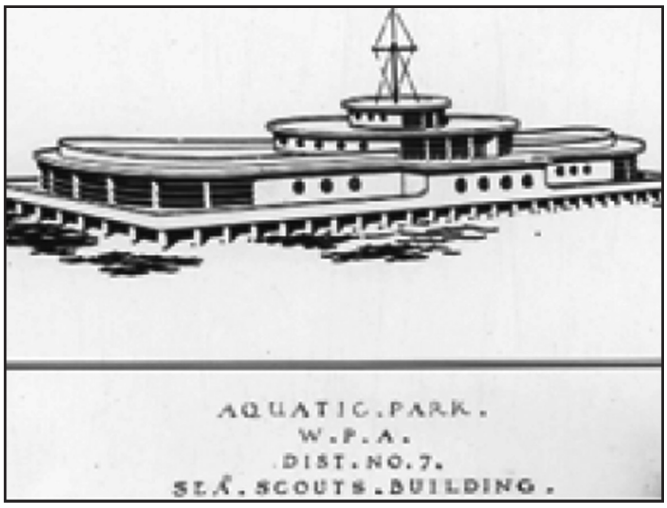
In June 1936, City architect William Mooser, Jr. began to develop designs and draft plans for the buildings intended for the nascent Aquatic Park. The central building was the Bathhouse, now the Maritime Museum. In a sign of the respect that San Francisco held for the Sea Scouts, he also developed plans for a boathouse for them in the same Streamline Moderne style. Because of complications and delays during the three years of construction at Aquatic Park, plans for the Scout boathouse (and new buildings for the rowing clubs) were abandoned.

According to Stephen Canright, Curator of Maritime History, in the Fall 2017 San Francisco Maritime Sea Letter, "The structure that now houses the Sea Scout Base ... was built by the Army Port of Embarkation in 1942." When the war ended, the Army transferred use of the building and wharf to the Sea Scouts in a deal with the San Francisco Recreation and Parks department. By 1950, the Scouting program was back in full swing. A 1948 aerial photograph shows the Sea Scout building, dock, and wharf in spiffy condition and surrounded with perhaps six active whaleboat ships and three or four powerboat ships.

In 1977, the City and County of San Francisco, headed by mayor George Moscone, handed over to the National Park Service (NPS) the real property that is now known as Aquatic Park. This transfer included the Sea Scout building and wharf. The cable car turnaround property remained in city hands for obvious reasons. The swimming and rowing clubs almost went over to the NPS too. In September 1977, the SF Progress reported that just prior to City approval of the transfer, the NPS "sent the matter back to committee for further hearing." The reason given at the time, according to Supervisor Dianne Feinstein, "is that the transfer has been complicated by pending court action involving private rowing clubs located in this part of the City's northern waterfront. The litigation involves questions of public access and membership discrimination." She was referring to the lawsuit that Joan Brown and five other women successfully pursued to require the SERC, the Dolphin Club, and the Ariel Club to admit women. The June 1980 version of the Cultural



1958 picture of Aquatic Park. Sea Scouts and High School Cutter location. Photo via San Francisco History Center, SFPL



Proposed Sea Scout Base, 1936. San Francisco NHP Historic Documents

History of GGNRA states, "Today the Dolphin and South End Clubs are the only nineteenth century rowing and swimming clubs still active in San Francisco County. Although now under city control **the rowing clubs at Aquatic Park will be transferred to GGNRA after legal complications are corrected** [emphasis added]. Recommend their inclusion in the National Register nomination for Aquatic Park when they are under National Park Service management." Thankfully, that didn't happen. Otherwise, the clubs would have been vulnerable to the whims of the National Maritime Historical Park (NMHP).

A good example is what happened to the Sea Scouts, who operated fairly independently under the National Park Service until 1988, when Congress established the NMHP and it took over the Aquatic Park environs. Within a short time, the nearby convenience stations were shuttered, leaving the Scouts with no readily accessible restrooms.

For a while, an outpost of the Park Police was housed at the Sea Scout base. Although the police quickly relocated, the space has remained under NMHP control to the present day and has been unavailable for Scout use for over a quarter century. The space currently appears unoccupied and a bit disheveled but Paul DePrey, Superintendent of the National Maritime Historical Park, maintains that this space is earmarked for future use in a sailing education program managed by the NMHP in concert with a partner that has yet to be identified. Compare that to our building in 1988. What is now Zahler Hall, the women's locker room, and the Sancimino Room had been recently constructed from the empty shell remains of the Ariel Club. Imagine what a tempting morsel that might have been to the Superintendent of NMHP at the time.

The April 2009 issue of Argonaut360.com (Vol. XXVII No. 4955) reported on one of the darkest days for the Scouts with the NPS. The Superintendent of the SF Maritime National Historical Park had sent a non-negotiable and apparently vindictive Special Use Permit, in January of 2009, to the SF Sea Scouts with the following operating parameters which would, in effect, shut down the Scout Base.

- No vessels may be hauled out
- No maintenance work of any kind, including sanding and painting, may be done
- The ongoing historical whaleboat restoration project must be relocated
- The storage lockers, sail lockers, and workshop must be emptied
- Removal of all maintenance tools and material from the Base

In the couple of months following issuance of the Special Use Permit, assistants from the offices of Senator Dianne Feinstein and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, as well as retired admiral Tom Brown of the Navy League, attended a meeting between the Sea Scouts and George Turnbull, the Assistant Regional Director of the NPS. "After the meeting, the NMHP Superintendent rescinded the order to vacate lockers and buoys by March 31. She reinstated the prior agreement which was a Cooperative Use Agreement."

Since 1948, the Scout Base has had a wharf connected to the concrete dock by a wooden trestle. As late as 1998, when it was fully operational, the wharf provided a handy place to stow the sailing dinghies—used for training and fun—out of the water and free of sea scum. The wharf had davits that made launching and retrieving the dinghies a simple, dry operation, as opposed to having to fetch them from moorings in the

1962 picture of functioning wharf with dinghies ready to launch. Photo via the San Francisco History Center, SFPL

Condemned Sea Scout wharf days before destruction

cove. Over the intervening years, due to a complicated history of neglect, the wharf disintegrated and was closed for use in 2016. With a functioning wharf, the Scouts could double or even quadruple the number of kids participating in the Scouting programs. In June of this year the wharf, already in a state of near collapse, was destroyed and removed on a barge.

Paul DePrey expresses optimism for the future of the Scout Base facilities. He fully expects the capabilities that the wharf provided will be replaced following a process outlined by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). He expects this process to begin at the end of 2024 with a "public conversation."

Many times, an agreement with the NPS will expire years before a replacement offers some peace of mind for the Scouts. This fallow period was true prior to the most recent instrument—a Special Park Use Permit, just signed in June 2024. This current accord, like the 2009 Special Use Permit comes with a zinger. The Sea Scouts must pay a use fee in the unprecedented amount of $18,000 per year and their access is restricted to less than 20 hours a week.

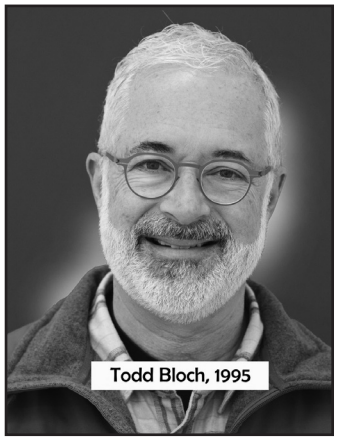
The Maritime Park General Plan of 1997 says, "The Sea Scout base would be rehabilitated for continued use by the San Francisco Sea Scouts. In cooperation with the San Francisco Sea Scouts, the park would explore options to provide sail training at the Sea Scout base. An appropriate agreement would be established with the Sea Scouts for operation and use of the facility." When asked about the change in instruments from agreement to permit, Paul DePrey responded flatly that "The instrument now being used is a Special Park Use permit. The park had a management review several years ago which determined that the previous agreement was not an appropriate instrument due to the substantive involvement aspect (among others)." However, the recently expired Cooperative Agreement only committed the NPS to monitor Sea Scout operations and ensure compliance with statutory requirements. To a lay observer, this hardly seems substantive involvement.

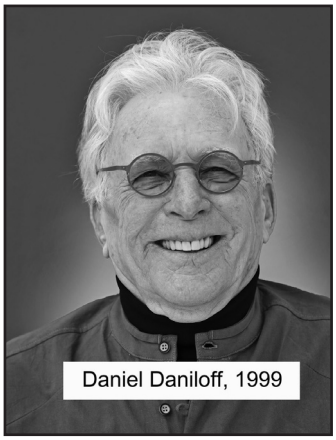
When asked why a General Agreement could not replace the expired Cooperative Agreement, DePrey points to a recent Director's Order prohibiting "financial assistance in any form (including subsidizing) through a General Agreement" and refers to the use of "utilities such as electricity" as a subsidy. However, the most recent agreement held the scouts solely accountable for all utilities (including electricity, water, sewer, telephone, and garbage disposal). It also made them responsible for maintenance and repair of all the facilities used in their operation.

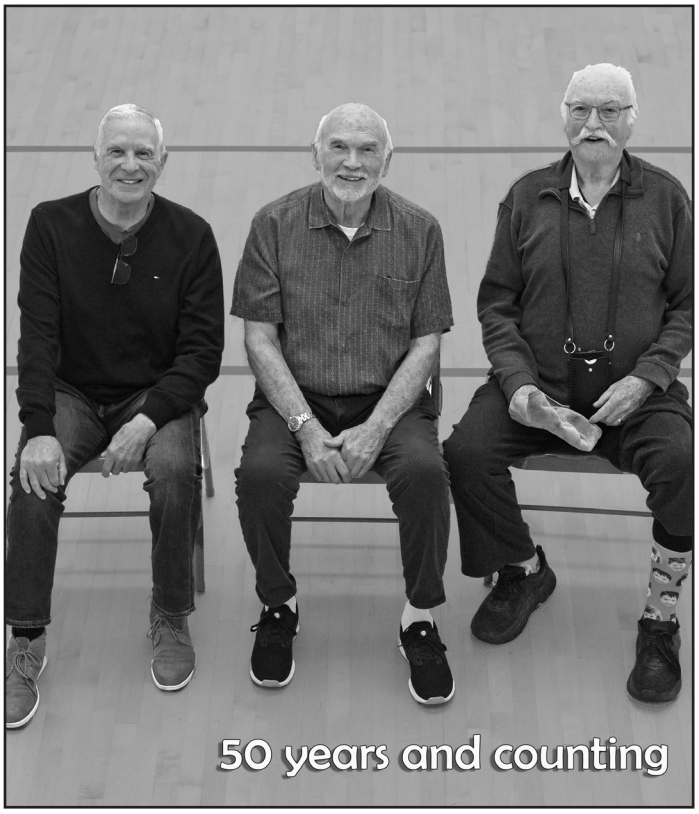
The reason these responses seem confusing is that Superintendent DePrey is befuddled on the topic. When asked for clarification, the NPS Section Chief of Financial Assistance states clearly, "General agreements effectively replaced MOUs [Memorandums of Understanding]. A General Agreement cannot be used to exchange funds. Substantial involvement is a condition of financial assistance cooperative agreements, not general agreements." Of course, the decision to issue a Special Use Permit is a management decision and the NMHP is well within its power to decide how to engage with the scouts, but the visuals are not very attractive.

Despite ongoing shabby treatment by the NMHP, the San Francisco Sea Scouts continue to offer a healthy, thriving program predominantly serving kids from lower- and middle-income families. May it long continue to do so. And the rowing clubs can continue to thank Joan Brown and her intrepid group of friends for helping to keep us free of federal control.

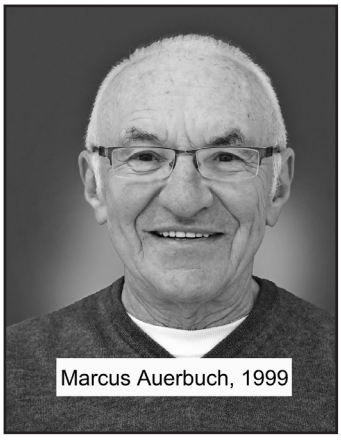
Three Cheers for the New Life Members!

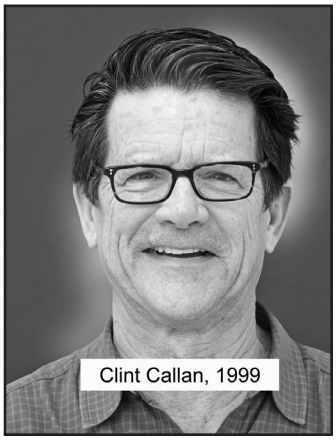






Mike Garibaldi, Ed De Cossio, and John Davis at the 2024 Old Timer's Dinner





New 50 year members:

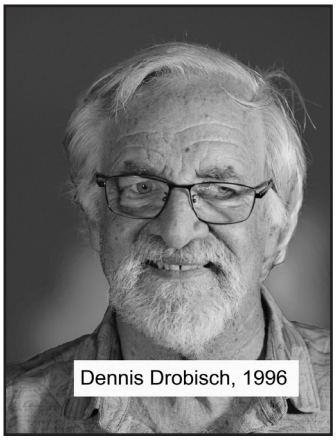
Ivan Balarin,
Michael Cerre,
George Kebbe,
Randy Pinetti,
Rollin Schroth,
John Sylvester,
John Tansley

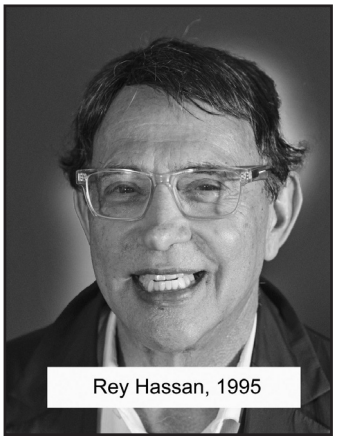
New 60 year member:

Gerald Cullen

New 70 year members:

Aldo Cuneo,
Bob Demo,
Phil Gaal





Dolphins In Memoriam

Kate Coleman

Kate Coleman, a ferocious journalist, competitive swimmer, and periodic upstairs hostess at Chez Panisse, who chronicled the Bay Area's political and sexual upheaval for more than 50 years, died last June. She was 81.

Kate lived Bay Area history and took notes, even when her research went against her politics. In 1978, she investigated the Black Panther Party's criminality, focusing on the unsolved murder of its bookkeeper, Betty Van Patter. When her life was threatened, she left the country. On her return, she installed window bars, bought a gun, and learned how to shoot.

David Weir, co-founder of the Center for Investigative Reporting, described Kate as a "fearless, indefatigable Berkeley-based journalist who resisted fashions for more than thirty years while writing penetrating, courageous reports on the Black Panther Party both when it was lionized…and when it was demonized." And her 2005 book, *The Secret Wars of Judi Bari: A Car Bomb, the Fight for the Redwoods and the End of Earth First!* challenged environmental orthodoxy.

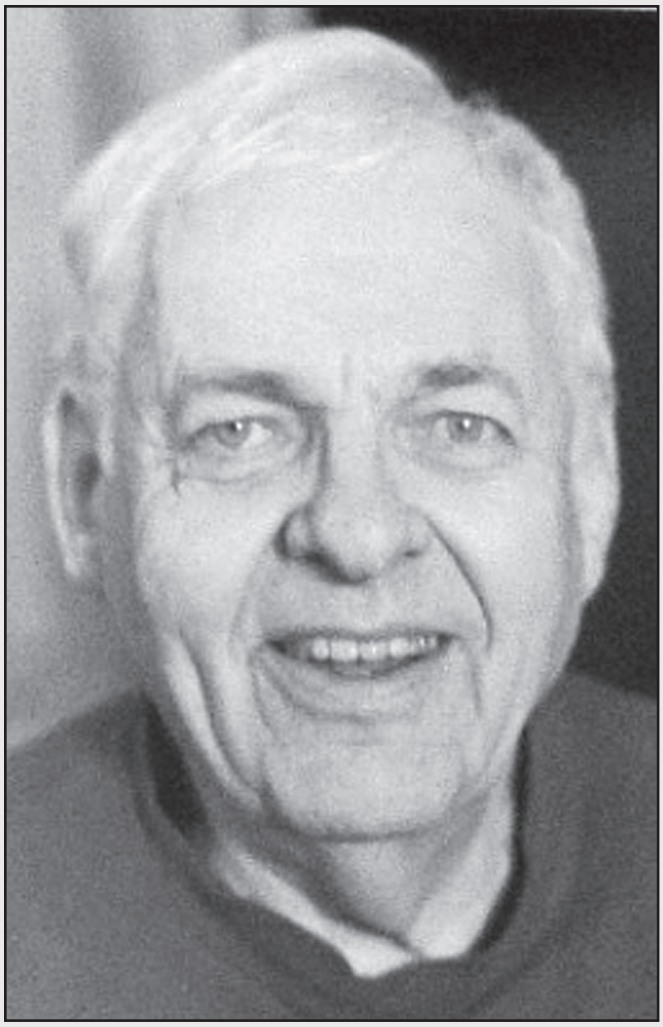
She also wrote about herself. In her early years, she wrote a column about her sexual experimentation in her regular column, "Where Angels Fear to Tread," for the Berkeley Barb. Her extensive files were saved by her friend, Linda Schacht, and are now in the Kate Coleman Archive at Stanford University Libraries. When she was younger, Kate covered the food movement from the inside, working once a week as the upstairs hostess at Chez Panisse.

She became a senior jock, swimming at the Dolphin Club, where she won medals and ribbons. Every New Year's Day, she swam from Alcatraz to San Francisco in a bathing suit. Wetsuits, she said, were for wusses.

Kate was an ardent feminist who didn't mind telling you she preferred the company of men. She never married but had many lovers. Her internal volume was always set to loud, and she often blended Shakespearean quotes with cursing. When Kate learned she had dementia and was asked what medical care she would want at the end of her life, she told me, whom she appointed her medical power of attorney, "Throw me in the water, and if I do the butterfly, save me."

In her last weeks, Kate babbled, occasionally saying something coherent. Several weeks ago, she said, "No more swimming." And a week before she died, she said, "No lovers." A gathering of Kate's friends was held in Berkeley in May. *Carol Pogash*

Ned Hoffman



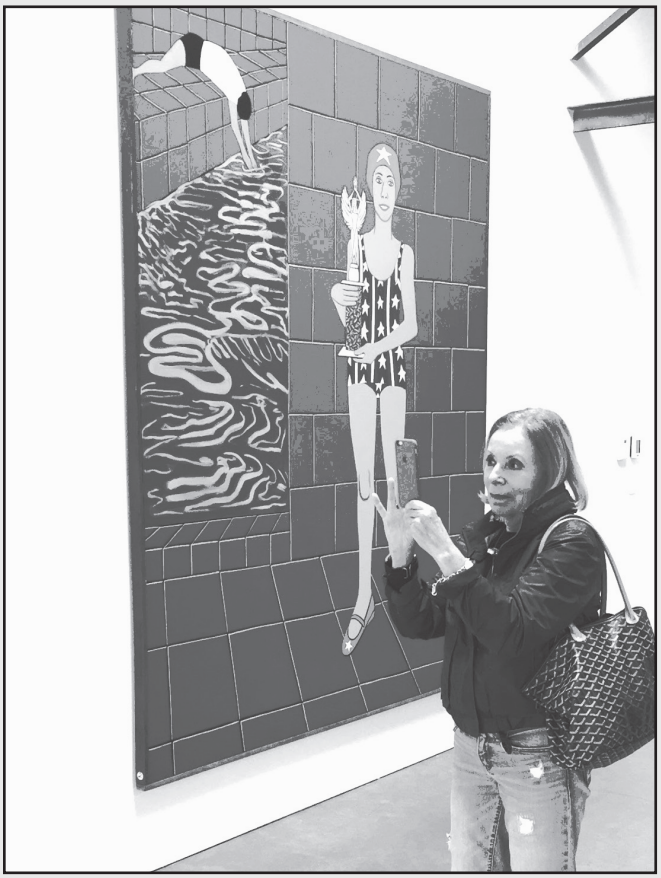
Life Member Ned Hoffman passed away on February 23, 2024, in Michigan, at age 89. He joined the Club in 1980 and became very active. Ned was a pilot, Boat Captain from 1983 to 1987, Helper of the Year in 1987, and taught boat training. When not serving the club, Ned enjoyed long runs across the bridge and through the Marin headlands and just hanging out with Lou. Rich Cooper

"Ned was a guiding light for me when I got into rowing: always kind, gentle, and knowledgeable about the ways of the Club. I always knew when Ned was or had been around from the lingering scent of his cigar." — Ken Frank

"I miss his smile." — Bob McKenzie

Ned was also a runner. He liked long, slow distances. He once took me out to Ft. Point, across the Golden Gate, up Hawk Hill to Rodeo Beach, back through the tunnel to Sausalito. A long, hilly day. He did that run often. *Mary Cantini*

Fran Collier



Fran Collier was a Dolphin Club friend, a consummate deck conversationalist, weight room captain, and runner. Most of us knew only a part or parts of Fran, but not the whole. Those who never hung out on the dock would have never crossed paths with her. Here's your chance to meet another one of our every-day exceptional members.

Fran joined the Dolphin Club in 1982 in the early days of women's membership .She ran for many years and spent time socializing in the weight room, on the dock, and at Club parties. The Club became an important part of her life; she enjoyed many hours here and found many friends, friends who cut across gender/age/race, and friends she also took into other parts of her life movies, politics, and travel. She traveled frequently and to most corners of the world. Her last few trips included Georgia and its neighbors, and Iceland

I met her in the weight room over gym conversations discussing politics and culture. She would stay around so you could talk with her, after a swim and sauna, always curious to know about you, your life.

Before the pandemic, Fran went to multiple movies a week and often attended lectures or special talks where many of us connected with her.

And her politics. Fran was passionate about politics and invested in her own education, subscribing to and reading a range of publications. Politics influenced her travels, movies, and cultural adventures. I knew not to ask her age; she was also a private person. To the end, Fran was a strong willed, open-minded, inclusive, and active woman. She was a loving mother and grandmother. *Laura Atkins*

Jimmy Vanja

Walt Schneebeli, Miss Golden Gate Swim, and Jimmy Vanya

Jimmy Vanja was a Dolphin Club member since 1955, very soon after he arrived in San Francisco. For many years he was swimming or piloting in all the events. He swam Alcatraz in under an hour and, per his recent recollection, his best time for the Golden Gate was 26 minutes and 33 seconds. He also ran to the GG Bridge and back every afternoon, accompanied by Walter Stack, Andy Berli, and Ray Talavera.

But his fondest—and scariest—memories were nights rowing beside people attempting to swim from the Farallons. A fishing boat would take them out, then leave them without "blinkers" or radios. During the night, the swimmers would disappear behind the waves. And the fog didn't help. Sometimes, someone would build a fire at Stinson Beach—the closest mainland point—to guide the boats. Jimmy had to pull the heavy Ike Pape over the transom. George Farnsworth, a mile from shore, couldn't take the 53 degree water, while a 15 year-old girl from Sacramento, who wasn't in either club, got lost in the fog. "We found her eventually," Jimmy said, "but she never went swimming again."

But any excitement in San Francisco paled beside his early years when his large family farm in Yugoslavia was requisitioned by the Germans for a hospital. Along with his mother and siblings, they were relegated to living in the kitchen. His father, the unofficial mayor of Cerovo, had disappeared after protesting the treatment of the villagers. But at least they ate well until the Russians arrived and kicked them out. Time to emigrate: first to Italy, then Canada, and finally the City. His family soon followed. While in a refugee camp, he learned the electrical trade, which made him very employable in the City. He later became an inspector, until he retired at 83.

Jimmy was alert and in a good mood right up to his death. He would have been 96 in August. *John Selmer*

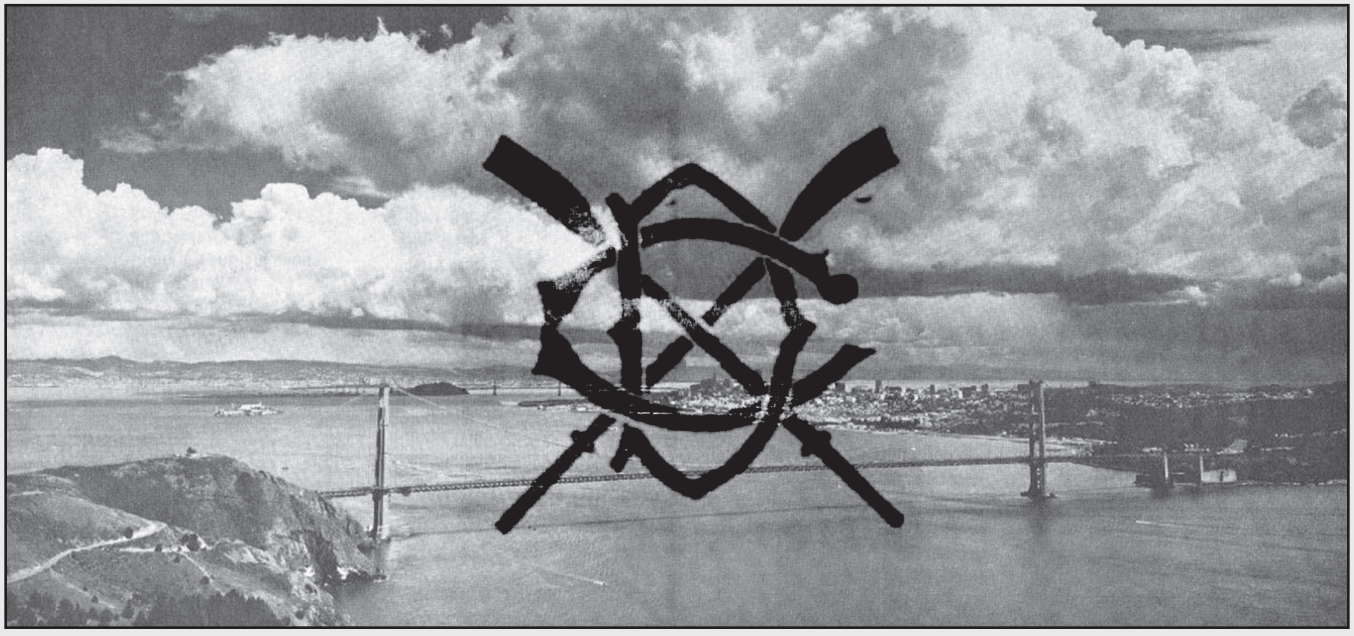
Dan Taaffe, an athlete of mind, body, and spirit

Dan Taaffe was a Dolphin for twenty-five years when he died in 2023. If you never had the pleasure to meet Dan, who stood six-feet-two tall, it's because he moved quietly amid the noise and haste. Although Dan, a retired land-use attorney, was a man of reserve, he took to the Bay, the Club, and its camaraderie like, well, a harbor seal. He was often amused by the seldom-dull conversations in the sauna. Dan was born September 28, 1940 into a native California family. The Taaffes are descendants of the Murphys, who were among the first to discover gold in 1849. Dan grew up in Los Altos and inherited his family's love for the Sierra Nevada, where he backpacked many a summer. Some of Dan's paternal antecedents came over Donner Pass the year before the fateful Donner Party. Even before his Dolphin-hood, Dan was drawn to dipping in the icy snowmelt of cold mountain streams. Yosemite was in his blood from his childhood, where he marveled at the now discontinued firefall over Glacier Point.

Dan was a true-blue San Franciscan. He was healthy, active, running or power-walking and swimming until, a few months before his death, he was suddenly felled by extreme fatigue. It took a few weeks to get a correct diagnosis—metastasized pancreatic cancer. He faced dying with grace, equanimity, and humor as friends and family rallied round. Dan loved his life and was not eager to leave us, but he reckoned he had lived his time fully, successfully, and with love for the good stuff. As a close friend, I think I can say he had no regrets. He is survived by many nieces and nephews, his older sister Julie, and his beloved Patty Mills. *Camille Cusumano*

James Morino

James Morino a 75-year Life Member, passed away on March 28, 2024, at age 93. He was our longest living member, joining the club in 1949 along with his brother Ray. The brothers were our celebrated Pacific Coast championship crews from 1949 to 1952. Also a strong swimmer, Jim swam the Golden Gate many times, including a second-place finish in 1950. Away from the Club he was a plumbing inspector for the City before retiring in 1991. Jim remained loyal and generously donated his scrapbook, photographs, rowing medals, and crew letter sweater to our Archives. *Rich Cooper*



Hell yes, Dolphins play Handball !

Handball has a long and storied history at the Dolphin Club. Our four-wall court opened for singles and doubles play in 1912; by 1958, one in five members was a handball player. While the sport doesn't quite enjoy such widespread participation today, a new generation of Dolphins are proudly competing and endeavoring to live up to the Club's storied handball legacy—and to get more people playing.

Brendan Monaghan and Jonathan Kibrick

Dolphin Club handballers, under the direction of Handball Commissioner Brendan Monaghan, have been charting new successes on the handball courts with competitive tournament wins and new Dolphin Sponsored Tournaments

Capitalizing on the recent interest and enthusiasm of new players across both clubs, the Dolphin Club took the reins and hosted their first handball event in many years. Often overlooked, novices were the focus of the tournament in November, putting them in the spotlight for a change. The tournament was a doubles, double elimination format, with 16 players participating. Dolphin Club's Brendan Monaghan and Jonathan Kibrick took first place after a series of well-fought and close matchups in the tournament.

Building off the success of the November doubles tournament, the Dolphin Club hosted a Novice Singles Tournament. The tournament showcased new talent in the Men's, Women's, and Novice divisions, competing for recognition, pride, and prizes of home-made jam.

In a spirit of interclub competition, Dolphin Handballers also competed in the South End Rowing Club's annual St Patrick's Day Handball Tournament. After several well-fought matchups, Dolphin Club's Brendan Monaghan and Jonathan Kibrick took first place in the Mixed 'C' (Novice) Doubles Division, beating out two South End Rowing Club teams and one Mixed Dolphin/South End team (Julia Schmidt (DC) paired with Margot McGrath (SERC).

If you're interested in checking out handball at the Dolphin Club, please reach out at handball@dolphinclub.org. Experienced Dolphin handballers are eager to take time to teach you the game and get you connected with players of a similar skill level. *Novice handball nights are held in conjunction with the South End on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from roughly 5:00 pm onwards. Players meet in the South End bar.*

Swimming in Swapkopmund

Morgan Kulla

Namibia is a huge, beautiful country in southern Africa, with nearly 1,000 miles of coast along the cool Atlantic. I had never been there, so in May I went to see the fabulous landscapes, dunes, canyons, and animals. My itinerary also included a meetup with ocean swimmers in Swakopmund.

The town reminded me of a smaller, old time Santa Cruz. It is named for its location at the mouth of the long dried up Swakop River. The climate is like the Bay Area, including the morning fog. I found Dentie Louw's name on a Masters Swimming Facebook page, and emailed to ask to join his ocean swimmers for a dip. One evening I met 10-12 regulars, part of a larger group the "Vixens and Wolves", who swim 800m to 2km in the sea three evenings a week. They also do full moon dips—and ocean water ballet, as I found in a video.

Sea temps range from 55F in the winter to 66F in the summer. In mid-May when I swam, the air temp was about 55F, and the water maybe 58F. Nearby is long pier out into the sea, and there is an annual "jetty swim," similar to the Santa Cruz pier swim.

We changed in a parking lot, and left clothes, etc. in cars. The day I swam, only two of us didn't wear some type of wetsuit. We started by swimming straight out to sea. It was very windy and rough with big waves, but later they told me this was a calm day! Then we turned to round a rocky point into calmer water, stopping at "the rocks" which were about three feet under. It would be funny to see swimmers suddenly stand up mid cove. There was lots of kelp on "the rocks."

It was just wonderful. I brought swim caps for all, and a tee shirt for Dentie. Next trip to Namibia I will try to meet up with the Masters team ("Dolphins")in the country's capital, Windhoek.

Dolphin Club Swim Results—Summer 2024

Coghlan Beach—March 16, 2024

While the test swim on March 15 was conducted in windy conditions, the day of the swim could not have been any better. The water was calm, the flood was strong, the sky was finally clear after a long rainy season. It was a fast and fun swim for everyone! Those who finished have a qualifying swim for the Golden Gate and Alcatraz swims.

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Jari Salomaa	24.13	10
2	Mackenzie Kirk	25.02	9
3	Miranda Rouse	25.26	8
4	Lauren Au Brinkmeyer	26.02	7
5	Tim McElligott	26.23	6
6	Bill Gardner	26.55	5
7	Steve Schatz	28.11	4
8	Tor Lundgren	28.24	3
9	Thorsten Anderson	28.29	2
10	Steven Carlson	28.39	1
11	Jeff Citron	29.13	
12	Alisha Kewalramani	29.34	
13	Peter Bartu	29.52	
14	John Gibbon	30.08	
15	Heather Kremer	31.1	
16	Anna Schatz	31.44	
17	Barnaby Payne	31.48	
18	Don Thornburg	32.35	
19	Elspeth Farmer	32.48	
20	Sean Lavelle	32.54	
21	George Morris	33.09	
22	Erik Peterson	33.14	
23	Briana McCarthy	33.19	
24	Beth Stein	33.22	
25	Kristoffer Milonas	33.29	
26	Justin Hughes	33.54	
27	David O'Reilly	34.14	
28	Tom Bernard	34.18	
29	Aniko Kurczinak	34.28	
30	Karin Christenson	34.57	
31	Ernst Halperin	35.01	
32	Elizabeth (Betsy) Mayer	35.05	
33	Erin Gasser	35.08	
34	Tony Payne	35.12	
35	David Green	35.3	

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
36	Colin McMahon	35.34	
37	Merryl Levy	36.2	
38	Lewis Haidt	37.27	
39	Lorenzo Carlisle	37.3	
40	Marci Glazer	37.44	
41	Marie Sayles	38.03	
42	Morgan Kulla	38.05	
43	Miguel Gonzalez	38.16	
44	Ally Sillins	38.19	
45	Pejmun Haghighi	38.56	
46	Peter Bostelman	38.56	
47	Joe Ferrero	39.18	
48	Brooke Wentz	39.47	
49	Kerry Labelle	39.52	
50	Mike Thoresen	40.06	
51	Henry Dombey	40.23	
52	Peter Cullinan	40.48	
53	Lisa Domitrovich	40.49	
54	Holly Reed	41.37	
55	Kent Myers	41.44	
56	Andy Stone	42.34	
57	Hal Offen	43.25	
58	Aaron Rosenthal	43.51	
59	Jennie Callan	45.3	
60	Mitch Witek	45.31	
61	Sheila Gleeson	45.48	
62	John Hornor	46.13	
63	Jim Frew	46.41	
64	Lindsay Stripling	51.46	
65	Phil Gaal	51.48	
66	Will Powning	52.04	
67	Peter Neubauer	52.08	
68	Joe Gannon	53.19	
69	Diana Pray	53.41	

Swim Results Summer 2024, cont.

Coghlan Beach—March 16, 2024

Pilots

Lead Pilot: Ramsey Williams, Phil Reiff, Nanda Palmieri, Charmaine Leonard, Dominic Lusinchi, Gabe Scurlock, John Thorpe, Don Osborne, Callen Taylor, Ken Coren, Evan Hirsch, Tom McCall, Barry Christian, Joey Gracey, Jon Bielinski, Alex Kroeger, Margaret Keenan, Brian Kiernan, Terry Horn, Kati Hopman, Nancy Hornor, Farrah Spott, Jon Grunstad, Barbara Byrnes, Egon Terplan, Steve Hanson, Bobby Carp, Marlin Gilbert, Jari Salomaa, Ramsey Williams, Nathaniel Berger, Tim Kreuzten, Kathleen Sheridan, David Buchanan, Alice Ma, Bobby Lu

Volunteers

Lead Swim Commissioner: Bobby Lu. Eric Shupert, Keith Nelson, David O'Reilly, Lauren Au Brinkmeyer, Bill Gardner, Janine Corcoran, Bill Brick, Christophe Crombez, Rebecca Wolski, Devan Nielsen , Cynthia Cristilli, Amy Brant, Paul Kretkowski, Robin Hart, Derrick Rebello, Tom Bernard, John Hornor, Nancy Hornor, Colin McMahon, Kim Gorcyca, Clint Smith, Peter Cullinan, Hal Offen, James Bennan, Emily Nogue, Janice Wood, Amir Bigdeli, Diane Campbell, Mary Cantini, Robin Rome, Tamar Besson, Marie Sayles, Lisa Domitrovich, Lewis Haidt , Kerry LaBelle, Sheila Gleeson, Jeff Citron, Peter Neubauer, Marci Glazer, Merryl Levy, Kent Myers, Ruby Lipscom, Nanda Palmieri, Alisha Kewalramani, Don Thornburg, Sue Garfield Test Swim: Maeve Lavelle, Marci Glazer, Nathaniel Berger, Lindsay Stripling, Ramsey Williams, Tim Kreutzen, Tim McElligott, Robin Hart, Devan Nielson, Janine Corcoran

Pier 39—April 27, 2024

This swim showcased the strength of the Club, both in numbers and in perseverance. The ebb was light, making it an honest swim for all who finished. We limited the test swim on Friday due to high winds and whitecaps, but had much nicer conditions on Saturday for the Club swim. On deck, a few members shared their memories of Kate Coleman and we all shared a moment of being grateful that we get to swim together.

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Joby Bernstein	0:27:54	10
2	Lissi Knell	0:30:10	9
3	Miranda Rouse	0:30:31	8
4	Mackenzie Kirk	0:30:52	7
5	Lauren Au Brinkmeyer	0:31:38	6
6	Bill Gardner	0:32:37	5
7	Juliet Cox	0:33:06	4
8	David Holscher	0:33:57	3
9	Jeffrey Citron	0:34:39	2
10	Stephen Schatz	0:35:05	1
11	Kenneth Schwarz	0:35:18	
12	Kim Gorcyca	0:35:22	
13	Katherine Schatz	0:35:37	
14	Michael Tschantz-Hahn	0:35:46	
15	Peter Bartu	0:35:50	
16	Anna Schatz	0:36:51	
17	Bill Brick	0:37:00	
18	Ben Hu	0:37:49	
19	Erika Kettleson	0:38:20	
20	Barnaby Payne	0:38:46	
21	Mitch Witek	0:38:50	
22	James Bennan	0:38:56	
23	Donald Thornburg	0:39:04	
24	Joey Murphy	0:39:10	
25	Sean Lavelle	0:39:45	
26	George Morris	0:40:32	
27	Katrina (Trina) Garry	0:40:40	
28	Elizabeth Mayer	0:40:46	
29	Lawrence Remstedt	0:41:15	
30	Tony Payne	0:41:52	
31	Kathleen Sheridan	0:42:40	
32	Thomas Reynolds	0:43:40	
33	Eric Wind	0:43:56	
34	Lindzy Bivings	0:44:18	
35	Denise Sauerteig	0:44:45	
36	Liam Ronan	0:45:02	
37	Tommaso Trionfi	0:46:15	
38	Luke Whiting	0:47:05	
39	Danny Wohlner	0:47:48	
40	Chloe Noonan	0:48:10	
41	Pia Hinckle	0:49:05	
42	Tamar Besson	0:49:19	
43	Nancy Hornor	0:49:27	
44	Keith Nelson	0:49:50	
45	Rebecca Handler	0:49:50	
46	Dean Badessa	0:50:15	
47	Laura Grubb	0:50:23	
48	Brendan Sheehan	0:50:38	
49	Nancy Booth	0:50:55	
50	Marlin Gilbert	0:51:07	
51	Ken Coren	0:51:15	
52	Ellen Hathaway	0:51:20	
53	Maryann Murphy	0:51:45	
54	John Hornor	0:51:46	
55	Peter Neubauer	0:51:55	
56	Eric Reed	0:52:06	
57	Rebecca Lee Whiting	0:52:30	
58	Kent Myers	0:53:20	
59	Hal Offen	0:53:22	
60	Robin Hart	0:53:24	
61	Maxwell Audette	0:53:27	
62	Jim Frew	0:54:05	
63	Ken Miller	0:54:21	
64	Lisa Domitrovich	0:55:49	
65	Lindsay Stripling	0:56:16	
66	Anne Diedrich	0:56:53	
67	Robin Rome	0:57:19	
68	John Melcher	0:57:37	
69	Catherine Hopman	0:58:11	
70	Sheila Gleeson	0:58:18	
71	William Burke	0:58:59	
72	Cynthia Cristilli	0:59:35	
73	Diana Pray	1:03:00	

Pilots

Nathaniel Berger (lead Pilot), Susan Allen, Nathaniel Berger, Jon Bielinski, Dave Buchanan, Barbara Byrnes, Barry Christian, Chris Clay, Tom Davis, Liz Donahoe, Sam Ferguson, Chris Germain, Ryan Hedum, Paul Irving, Diane Jackson, Brian Kiernan, Chris Kocher, Alex Kroeger, Mickey Lavelle, Merryl Levy, Heather Lockhart, Grant Mays, Josefina McAuliffe-Rocha, Tom McCall, Tim McElligott, Pejman Moshfegh, Stuart Moulder, Michelle Nguyen, Raine O'Connor, Donald Osborne, Nanda Palmieri, William Powning, Holly Reed, John Robiola, Wendy Schuss, John Thorpe, Jeffrey Tong, Diane Walton, Lisa Weaver, Sharon Wong

Volunteers

Ben Chun, lead swim commissioner. Thorsten Anderson, Lauren Au Brinkmeyer, Maxwell Audette , Cynthia Barnard, Joni Beemsterboer, Joseph Bernstein, Nancy Booth, Diane Campbell, Jeffrey Citron, Janine Corcoran, Juliet Cox, Logan Craig, Christophe Crombez, Laure Darcy, Bill Gardner, Sue Garfield, Laura Grubb, Catherine Hopman, Ben Hu, Alisha Kewalramani, Mackenzie Kirk, Lissi Knell, Paul Kretkowski, Morgan Kulla, Sean Lavelle , Mark Lenz, Alix Marduel, Elizabeth Mayer, George Morris , Peter Neubauer , Emily Nogue, David O'Reilly, Nanda Palmieri, Niki Ragone, Derrick Rebello, Jamie Robinson, Jamie Robinson, Miranda Rouse, Eric Shupert, Beth Stein, Michael Thoresen, Donald Thornburg, Michael Tschantz-Hahn, Leah Womelsdorf Test Swim: Heather Kremer, Hal Offen, Beth Stein, Tom Neill, Holly Reed, Raine O'Connor, Lawrence Remstedt, Kristoffer Milonas, Jim Frew, Dean Badessa, Tim McElligott, Nathaniel Berger, Ben Chun, Bill Gardner, Diane Walton, Marci Glazer

Yacht Harbor—June 8, 2024

This year's Yacht Harbor was more of a true swim as we couldn't leave later in the flood due to wind, but we had clear skies, and 57-degree water. We had to pull 2 swimmers but everyone including those pulled did alright and had a good time. Those who finished have a qualifying swim for the Golden Gate and Alcatraz swims.

Place	Name	Swim time	LCP
1	Kalani Leifer	39:00	10
2	Lissy Knell	39:32	9
3	Mackenzie Kirk	40:02	8
4	Lauren Au	41:50	7
5	Travis Bickman	43:30	6
6	Steve Schatz	44:10	5
7	Bill Gardner	43:43	4
8	David Holscher	46:20	3
9	Michael Tschanz-Hahn	47:24	2
10	Peter Bartu	48:40	1
11	Georgie Alcock	49:30	
12	Amanda Stone	51:32	
13	Joey Murphy	53:10	
14	Sean Lavelle	53:12	
15	Trina Garry	53:22	
16	Garo Arabatyan	54:42	
17	George Morris	55:45	
18	Lawrence Remstedt	55:48	
19	Tom Reynolds	56:00	
20	Nick Churcher	56:50	
21	Kathleen Seccombe	56:58	
22	Elizabeth Mayer	57:30	
23	Toddy Chivetta	57:45	
24	Margret Keenan	58:10	
25	Clair Ault	58:25	
26	Beth Stein	59:00	
27	Samuel Maslin	59:29	
28	Erin Gasser	59:29	
29	Mickey Lavelle	59:45	
30	Julia Peterson	1:00:03	
31	Tracy Joyner	1:00:05	
32	Marie Sayles	1:02:02	
33	Chloe Noonan	1:03:00	
34	Julie Pan	1:03:41	
35	Laura Grubb	1:04:07	
36	Liam Ronan	1:04:10	
37	Lisa Domitrovich	1:05:20	
38	Eric Reed	1:05:34	
39	Keith Nelson	1:06:40	
40	Nancy Horner	1:06:10	
41	Kristina Forino	1:06:50	
42	Aaron Rosenthal	1:07:00	
43	Alfred Seccome	1:13:35	
44	Katie Hopman	1:15:20	
45	Robin Rome	1:16:00	
46	Peter Newbauer	1:16:25	
47	Will Powning	1:18:02	
48	Lorna Newlin	1:20:44	
DNF	Eliana Agudel		
DNF	Denise Sauerte		

Pilots

Lead Pilot: Nathaniel Berger, John Robiola, Nanda Palmieri, Charmaine Leonard, Marcus Auerbuch, Tony Foe, Tom McCall, Diane Jackson, Dominic Lusinchi, Rachele, Mechem, Jon Bielinski, Evan Hirsch, Sara Wessen Chang, Brian Kiernan, Paul Chong, Damian Guenzing, Danny Wohlner, Sam Ferguson, Barbara Byrnes, Willis Stebbins, Kent Myers, Bobby Carp, Raine O'Connor, Maile Smith, Ally Sillins, Noah Villagomez, Duncan Umphrey, Leah Womelsdorf, Diane, Robert Fairbank, Nathaniel Berger, Lindsay Stripling, Sharon Wong, David Buchanan, Kathleen Sheridan, Tim Dumm, Nihan Tiryaki, Heather Kremer

Volunteers

Lead Swim Commissioner: Lindsay Stripling. Eric Shupert, Keith Gray, Ben Hu, Christophe Crombez, David O'Reilly, Stephen Balhoff, Niki Ragone, Anne Hamersky, Bill Schroeder, Stephanie McGee, Dave Holmes Kinesella, Henry Rogers, Alix Marduel, Erin Gasser, Robert Blum, Lawrence Remstedt, Peter Cullinan, Diana Pray, Emily Nogue, Mary Cantini, Dean Badessa, James Bennan, Diane Campbell, Tommaso Trionfi, Marie Sayles, Peter Bartu, Bill Brick, Ashley Chapokas, Robin Hart, Clint Smith, Betsy Mayer, Alfred Seccombe, George Morris, Mike Mitchell

Test Swim

Dominic Lusinchi, Terry Horn, Steve Schatz, Anthony DuComb, Eliana Agudelo, Peter Cullinan, Kathleen Sheridan, Hal Offen, Gina B Rus, Beth Stein, Lindsay Stripling, Nathaniel Russel, Tim McElligott, Marci Glazer, Bill Gardner

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Form and information in Files on groups.io "ART" Folder.

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2024 DOLPHIN CLUB SWIM & EVENT SCHEDULE

Event	Day	Date	Current/Tide (Gg)	Jump
*Pier 41**	SAT	1/20	11:18 3.6 kn E	9:30
*Coghlan Beach swim**	SAT	2/10	9:54 2.6 kn F	8:30
Valentine's Day Singles Regatta	SUN	2/11		
Old Timers' Lunch	SUN	2/18		12:00
*Pier 39**	SAT	3/16	8:48 3.3 kn E	8:00
End of Polar Bear	THU	3/21		23:00
Start of Walt Stack Challenge	FRI	3/22		5:00
Angel Island Overnight	SAT	4/20		
*Coghlan Beach**	SAT	4/27	6:00 3.8 kn E	9:45
McCovey Cove Regatta	SAT	5/4		
Walt Schneebeli Over-60 Cove	SAT	5/11	6:18 4 kn E	9:00
End of Walt Stack Challenge	FRI	5/31		
*Yacht Harbor**	SAT	6/8	5:24. 4.1 kn E	9:00
Rowers Festival	TBA	TBA		
Start of 100 Mile Swim	SAT	6/1		
*Pride Swim**	SAT	6/22	4:06. 4.1 kn E	8:00
*John Nogue Swim For Science—Pier 15**	SAT	6/29	10:42 2.4 kn E	9:30
*Bay Bridge**	SAT	7/27	9:06. 2.5 kn E	7:30
Swim Clinic	SUN	8/4		8:00
*Doc Howard Gas House Cove**	SAT	8/10	8:36. 2.1 kn E	13:00
Santa Cruz Pier Swim	SAT & SUN	8/17-18		
*Baykeeper Swim**	SAT	8/31	9:42. 2.9 kn F	7:00
Swim Across America	SAT	9/14		
*DC/SE Interclub Tri**	SUN	9/15		8:30
Golden Gate	SAT	9/21	6:48. 2.8 kn E	9:15
*China Beach***	SAT	9/28	8:36. 2.6 kn F	7:00
Escape from Alcatraz Tri (EFAT)	SAT	10/5	6:12 2.2 kn E	7:30
SUP Regatta	SAT	10/12		
Angel Island Regatta	SAT	10/19		
Alcatraz	SAT	10/26	7:06. 2.2 kn F	9:00
End of 100 Mile Swim	THU	10/31		
Veterans Day Swim	SAT	11/9		9:00
Pilot Appreciation Dinner	SAT	11/9		18:00
Thanksgiving Day Cove	THU	11/28		
New Year's Day Qualifier & Holiday Brunch	SAT	12/14		
Start of Polar Bear	SAT	12/21		

** Qualifying Swim. Need 2 qualifying swims + 3 helps to qualify for Golden Gate and/or Alcatraz.*

Swim Program Rules

1. Club scheduled swims are restricted to Club members, who are current on their dues and fees and in good standing.
2. Swimmers must have current USMS membership, and abide by each organization's rules and requirements.
3. Swimmers are required to wear orange caps on all scheduled swims.
4. Swimmers cannot use swim aids, including fins and wet suits, on any scheduled swims.
5. New members are not eligible to swim in scheduled out-of-cove swims for either 6 months from the start of their membership, or before successfully completing the 100-mile swim, the Polar Bear swim, or the Accelerated Out-of-Cove process.
6. All out-of-cove swims require a pilot:swimmer ratio of 1:3.
7. Time limits may be imposed at the discretion of the Swim Commissioner(s).
8. All Club boats are reserved for scheduled swims. Co-pilots are encouraged. Riders are prohibited.
9. Swimmers must register during check-in and attend the swim briefing in order to swim.
10. Swimmers must successfully complete at least two qualifying swims and help on at least three swims to qualify for Alcatraz and Golden Gate Swims.
11. Out-of-town members must have successfully completed two of the last three Club scheduled Alcatraz and/or Golden Gate swims or meet Rule 10 above.

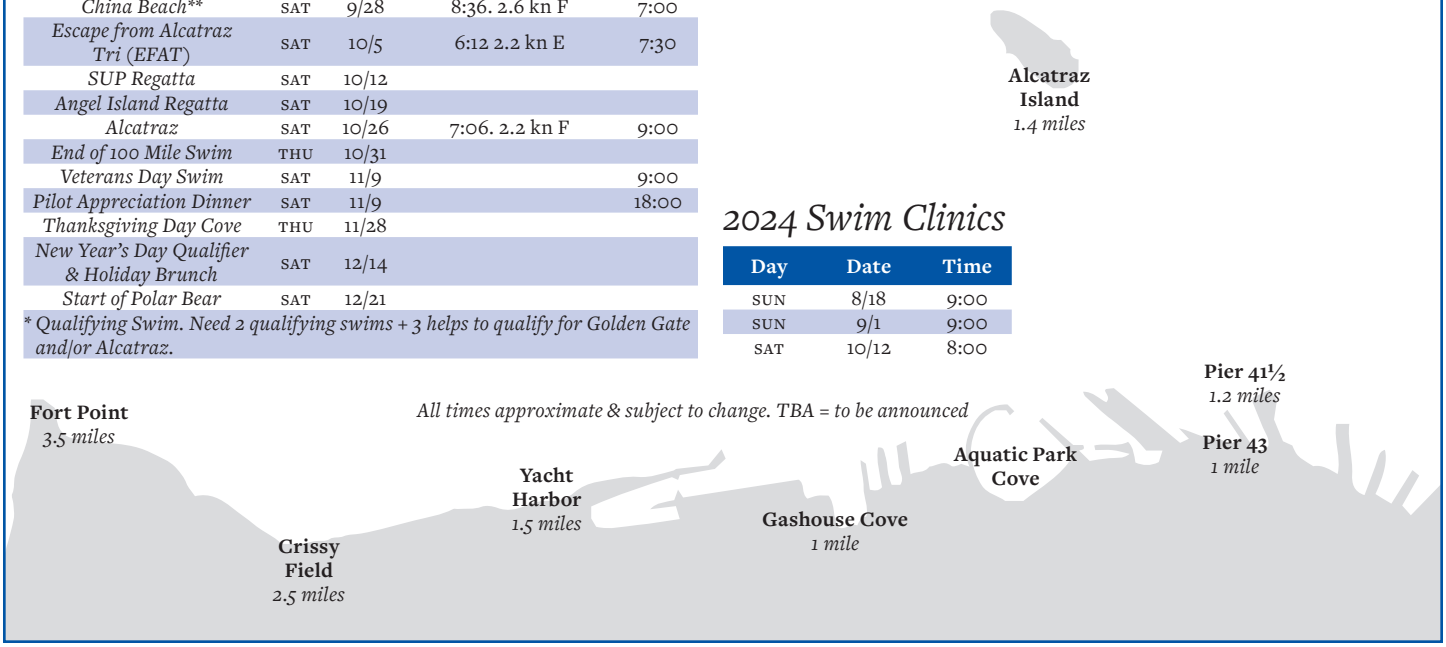
(Nothing in the above rules shall contravene any applicable Federal laws and statutes.)

*** Requires special qualifier, details TBA*

2024 Swim Clinics

Day	Date	Time
SUN	8/18	9:00
SUN	9/1	9:00
SAT	10/12	8:00

All times approximate & subject to change. TBA = to be announced



DOLPHIN LOG

The Bulletin of the Dolphin Swimming & Boating Club San Francisco Established 1877

The **Eppleton Hall** *came to US from Newcastle, UK 55 years ago. On board was author John Kortum, son of Karl, who founded the National Maritime Museum. (Keith Howell)*

Fall/Winter 2024–25

Dolphin Log

Keith Howell, *Editor*

Larry Scroggins, *Editor*

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Editorial Policy

Submission of any and all material to the Log editors from any and all authors constitutes an agreement between the authors and the editors. This agreement gives to the editors the right to alter the submitted material in any way that the editors feel will improve the material for Log readers. Decisions to alter or publish submitted material will be the decision solely of the editors.

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President: John Hornor

Vice President: Ken Coren

Treasurer: Tim McElligott

Recording Secretary: David Zovickian

Membership Director: Janine Corcoran

House Captain: [vacant]

Boat Captain: Maile Smith

Board of Governors

Diane Walton, Tim Kreutzen, Polly Rose, Ben Chun, Stu Gannes, Nanda Palmieri, Nathaniel Berger, John Robiola

Club Manager: John Ingle

Asst. Club Manager: Brendan Sheehan

Retiring dedicated club president Diane Walton grasping one of the few tangible rewards.

President's Report

by Diane Walton

I thought about getting sentimental about all we have been doing together these past few years, but naming each and every one of you who has contributed to the Dolphin adventure would take more space than I have! And I decided it'd be way more interesting to get us thinking about our shared future!

Where will we be in 2027? The Club will have been operating for 150 years. We will light the Golden Gate Bridge blue Muni Pier and City Hall, too (easier!). We will dance in the street and on the dock. Many of us will go in and on the water at least 150 times. We will celebrate 150 people and things from our past and build on them for our future. We will still be being grateful to those who generously made the new weight room and new galley and new deck possible. Some of us will commit to doing new things as part of the year-long celebration, creating personal bests. Some will re-find the joys of things done previously but somehow lost (77th birthday row around Angel Island, anyone?). We will celebrate each other over and over again. My biggest commitment is getting more kids in and on the water and knowing more about our Bay, and I know you will help me make that happen!

Do keep sending thoughts about ways to celebrate the Club and ways you think the Club could be even better. E-mail 877-2027@dolphinclub.org.

Commissioners:

Swimming

Swim Commissioners: Alex Kroeger, Lindsay Stripling, Ben Chun, Michael Tschantz-Hahn **Check-in:** Eric Shupert **Clean-up:** Steve Carlson **Clothes Wrangling:** Janine Corcoran **Swim Trinkets:** Margaret Keenan **Timing:** Janice Wood, Emily Nogue, Tamar Besson **Galley Captain:** Alix Marduel **Swim Clinic Director:** Diane Campbell

Rowing

Wooden Fleet Commissioner: Nanda Palmieri **Lake Merced Captain:** Jim Storm, Rachael Perry **Kayak Training:** Nathaniel Berger, Terry Horn **Motorized Fleet Commissioner & Chief Pilot:** Nathaniel Berger **Non-Motorized piloting:** Terry Horn **Shell Training:** James Dilworth, Gabby Wong **Learn to Row:** Dominic Lusinchi, **Grizzly Challenge:** Zack McCune **SUP Training:** Raine O'Connor, Gary Leong **Boat Night:** Jon Bielinski, Julia Hechanova

Other Athletics

DC/SERC TRI Captain: Ward Bushee **EFAT:** Gina Rus **Handball Captain:** Brendan Managhan **Running Commissioner:** Trina Garry **Weight Room Captain:** Deborah Sherwood

Lockers

Women's Captain: Crissa Williams **Men's Captain:** David Zovickian

John Selmer, in Memoriam

by Laura Zovickian

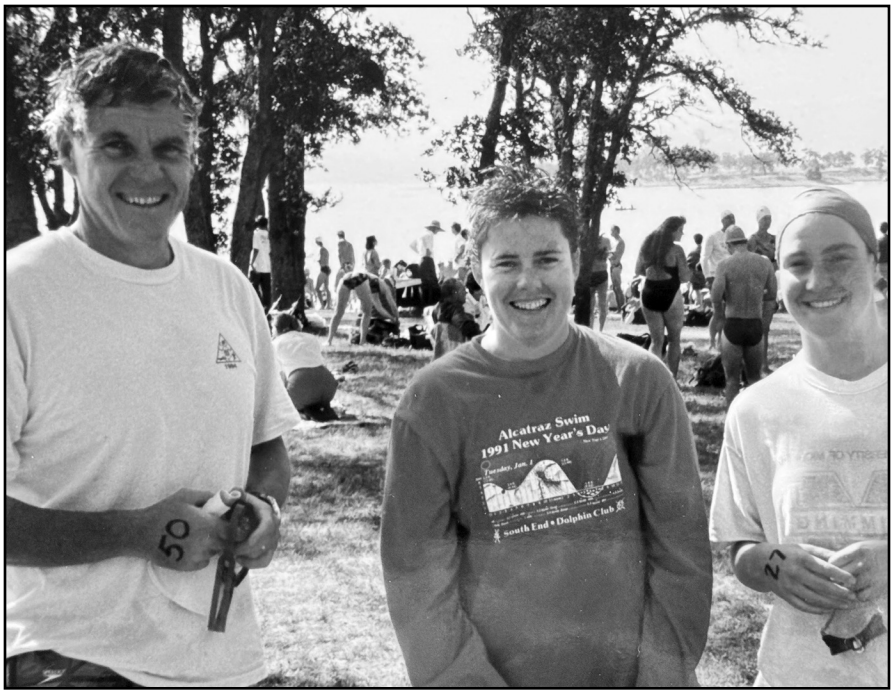
We lost John Selmer this past June. John was an incredible man. His contiguous Dolphin Life started in 1985 after a false start a few years earlier in the late 70s, when he added open water swimming to his regular Masters Swimming plan. John was a very accomplished Masters Swimmer, and brought his exceptional swimming prowess and modest demeanor to the Dolphin Club. He was a regular top finisher for many decades, completing numerous Polar Bears, including one all backstroke.

John got bit by the "marathon fish." I was the incredibly lucky recipient of a training partner who brought the mentality, dedication, and drive of a Naval submariner with a great sense of humor and a huge heart. Now you all know my secret to a successful Channel swim. Latch on to the strongest, most dedicated training partner, and you have only one path: success.

John was quietly outstanding in everything he did. He was more dependable and reliable than you could expect. He was funny with a dry practical joker streak—and always folded his clothes precisely before hopping in the water. We would swim stroke for stroke for hours and hours of training.

Many Dolphins would experience John's incredible calm and support when he selflessly piloted swims or offered encouragement. When in an Avon with a conked-out motor mid- span of the Gate and a tanker headed your way, it's a good thing to be with John Selmer, complete in his Gorton fishermen's outfit, teaching me the universal distress signal and asking if my kick was strong.

John received many trinkets and even created his own trinkets if one was lacking. He assembled all these items into his carefully curated "I love me shed" which no one would believe existed because of his overwhelming modesty. After he retired, the "I love me shed" transformed into the exceptional archives and workshop in his house, where he made model boats of the Dolphin fleet, carved wood and built so many other incredible things in that space—amazing and so quintessentially John.



Channel swimmers in training: John Selmer, Laura Zovickian and Becky Fenson

The dedication I received from John was huge for me but it was small in comparison to the fierce love, support, and loyalty he had for his family. John was an amazing role model for me as I watched him navigate life with teenagers, then adult children and grandchildren and more grandchildren. John loved his family with strength, devotion, and endurance. John also had to cope with the tragic, untimely death of his son, Doug. While crushing, he refused to let this loss be the undoing of his family. He stood by his wife, Kristin, and their children: Lisa, Sarah, and Molly, and all the grandchildren.

We were lucky to have John as a Dolphin and I was lucky to have him as a training partner and friend. He has had an indelible impact on my life. His passion for swimming and willingness to keep going, most importantly with an open heart filled with love, is the gift John has given me.

To view John's Whitehall models, see Artifact 261 in our Archives: https://hub.catalogit.app/375

Club House

Gardens: Susanne Friedrich, Andy Stone
Deck Landscape: Steve Krolik
Green Team: Janice Wood

Social

Entertainment Commish: Robin Rome
Club Mixer: Todd Bloch, Davis Ja
Joe Illick Forum: Krist Jake, Stuart Gannes
Ukulele Club: Carolyn Hui

Communications

Facebook: James Dilworth **Groups.io:** Ward Bushee
Instagram: Mackenzie Kirk, Anne Hamersky
Twitter/Mastodon: Nancy Friedman
2000 Stories: Julie Marcus
Website Manager: Laura Croome

Lost & Found

Club & Women's Locker Room: Piper Murakami
Men's Locker Room: Hal Offen

Other

Volunteer Coordinator: Denise Sauerteig
Dolphin Foundation: Anthony DuComb
DC Youth Swim Fund: Laura Zovickian
Government: Ken Coren, Diane Walton
Renovation Committee: John Hornor, Peter van der Sterre **Save Aquatic Park Pier:** Diane Walton
Swag: John Ingle, Brendan Sheehan, Maile Smith

The Dolphin Ukulele Club: Just Keeps Strumming

Top row: Johanna Pitocchelli (co-founder), John Thorpe, Carolyn Hui, Nanda Palmieri.
Bottom row: Nancy Hornor, Bob Barner, Eric Shackelford, Beth Chanson

Carolyn Hui

The Dolphin Ukulele Club meets every week to strum, sing, and have some fun. This year marks the Club's six year anniversary. As I think back, I'm reminded of how and why it got started in the first place.

The Dolphin Ukulele Club was formed on the heels of an annual Dolphin Club event. A group of us had just finished weeks of practicing hula and gave a rousing performance at the 2018 Pilots Appreciation Dinner. Our Hawaiian hula teacher, Duke Dahlin, stressed the importance of community, caring, and respect the Aloha Spirit as we learned the dance. After our performance we knew we were going to miss this spirit that we shared. We also knew we were going to miss the feeling of working together to make something good, even beautiful.

As we chatted while folding Duke's hand-painted hula skirts, someone brought up the topic of playing the ukulele. We discovered several of us had a ukulele at home that was lying there waiting to be played, myself included. There were others who didn't have a ukulele, but had always wanted to play. Then and there the Dolphin Ukulele Club was born!

I'm not a master of the instrument by any means, but I do have some musical experience and I've been a schoolteacher, which was enough to qualify me to lead this group of enthusiastic strummers.

We started a weekly meet-up/practice/jam (*kanikapila* in Hawaiian) in the cold and echoey handball court. We later moved to the sunshine and fresh air of the deck and garden, regaling the weekend swimmers and loungers with our strumming and singing. We've played everything from The Beatles to Frank Sinatra, Otis Redding to The Grateful Dead, and, in the spirit of aloha, always include Hawaiian music. People enjoyed our playing and commented on how our music added a special treat to their visit to the club.

Then COVID-19.

The world shut down and we were banned from the Dolphin Club and each other. But we didn't let a little pandemic stop us, and continued strumming together through Zoom. We met every week on our computer screens, though the technology didn't allow us to hear each other. Instead, everyone muted their mics and played to the sound of solely my strumming and singing; but you could plainly see the joy on everyone's faces as they strummed along. After each song we unmuted ourselves to check in with each other, share stories, laugh, and sometimes cry. We called it "Zoomalele," and it proved to be an anchor that grounded us and a salve that soothed our souls during that unnerving and uncertain time.

Finally, when the threat of COVID had passed, the Club was back open for business, and we were able to strum together in person again. We moved our meetings indoors to the Sancimino Room to avoid the changeable weather and to hear each other better (much to the delight, we hope, of the folks in the women's locker room, which shares a wall).

Since its inception, the Dolphin Ukulele Club has performed at a number of Dolphin events, including the most recent 2024 Pilots' Appreciation Dinner. We played "Down at the Dolphin Club," a song I wrote to the tune of "Under the Boardwalk" by The Drifters. It was thrilling to share a little fun and music with the exuberant and supportive audience that night. Everyone joined us in song and together, dare I say, we made something good, even beautiful!

You can find us in the Sancimino Room on most Saturdays from 11:30 to 1:00. Please join us! Everyone is welcome!

Keep on strumming!

Down at the Dolphin Club

Melody: Under the Boardwalk by The Drifters
Lyrics: Carolyn Hui

Oh when the sun comes up it's time to head down to the club
Check in, mark your arm and put the orange cap on that we all love
Down at the Dolphin Club, down by the bay...yeah
We may be crazy but love to swim and row in San Francisco Bay

D A T D C – down by the bay, D A T D C – swim and row everyday
D A T D C – people think we're insane, D A T D C – when it's cold don't complain
Down at the Dolphin Club, Dolphin Club!

There's New Year's Day Cove, Pier 41 and the Relay
Gas House Cove, Pier 39, Yacht Harbor, Crazy Cove and John Nogue
Coghlan Beach, Bay Bridge, Fort Point, Pride Swim, oh yeah
Doc Howard, Walt Schneebli, Golden Gate and Alcatraz.

D A T D C – down by the bay, D A T D C – where the sea lions play
D A T D C – row & swim, swim & row, D A T D C – there's always someone you know
Down at the Dolphin Club, Dolphin Club!

The pilots keep us safe, help us when the current's strong
They get there early, row out and stay with us 'til the end, all day long
They paddle kayaks, whitehalls and stand-ups too, oh yeah
The Airias, Spirit, Stack and Moon round out the crew

D A T D C – down by the bay, D A T D C – pilot's say, "Are you okay?"
D A T D C – "Keep swimming, you're doin' great!"
D A T D C – "PILOTS WE APPRECIATE!"
Down at the Dolphin Club, Dolphin Club!

Interlude

Down at the Dolphin Club,
We love it don't you? OH, YEAH!
Polar Bear and the Grizzly Bear Challenge too

D A T D C – down by the bay, D A T D C – swim and row everyday
D A T D C – people think we're insane, D A T D C – when it's cold don't complain

Down at the Dolphin Club, Dolphin Club!

On the Dolphins' broadwalk.

Sharon Wong, Athena Kyle, Sue Robbins, Carolyn Hui, Johanna Pitocchelli, Eric Shackelford

Welcome Eppie

The Eppelton Hall *arrived in the cove from UK in 1969. Eppie left the cove in 2025. Will she ever return?*

John Kortum

As the swimmer goes, just 40 yards north of the tip of the Dolphin Club dock lies the Eppleton Hall. When I was a little lad of 11 years, I sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on this paddle wheel steamboat. I served as cabin boy, keeper of the kerosene lights, watchkeeper, and helmsman on the 4 to 8 watch, both afternoon and morning; and once I had learned a thing or two, I was dubbed ordinary seaman.

That was a long time ago—55 years, the same age as the Beatles' Abbey Road—but my memories are still vivid. I remember storms, calms, sea snakes, foreign ports, hard work, learning the seaman's craft, discovering the poverty of elsewhere, the small world of a ship's crew, nearly fatal dysentery, and the way people of our world lived, just differently from San Francisco.

From the early 1950s, my father, Karl Kortum, was the Director of the San Francisco Maritime Museum. In fact, he had proposed the whole idea of a Maritime Museum to the editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, Scott Newhall. In those glory days of newspapering, there were four major papers in the city, and none opposed the creation of a maritime museum. Decisions were easier then.

As a deep water sailor who rounded Cape Horn and ran down the Roaring 40s to Tasmania during WWII in a ship similar to the Balclutha, my father liked real ships far more than the models found in most maritime museums. He had a keen sense of authenticity, and actual ships were authentic. He felt they tell a better history, a better story than miniatures.

The first vessel acquired was the Balclutha, which he found derelict in Sausalito. The museum purchased it in the '50s, and a remarkable coalition of shipping companies, shipyards, labor unions, and volunteers restored her. Admission fees to the Balclutha financed the museum. The C.A. Thayer, Wapama, Eureka, Alma, Hercules, and a few smaller craft followed, creating the Hyde Street Pier State Historical Park.

My father's first loves were square-rigged sailing ships like the Balclutha. He had a mission to preserve them. They had become an endangered species after 1819 when the paddle wheel steamship Savannah crossed the Atlantic. Since that pioneering voyage, steamships

slowly eased out sailing ships as the mainstay of world commerce.

My father caught the tail end of the square rigger era, and caught the bug to preserve the last survivors. So did Scott Newhall, the inspired editor who brought the San Francisco Chronicle from just another paper to becoming the city's finest, with compelling reporting and brilliant columnists like Herb Caen, Art Hoppe, and Charles McCabe. Scott liked steamships also. Somehow the notion of being the master of a paddle wheel steamer caught his fertile imagination. When Scott heard that the last active paddle tug in England, the Reliant, née Old Trafford, was being retired, he wanted her. But the Greenwich Museum in England had first dibs and wanted to chop her up for a landlocked display. Scott's effort to buy her through a ruse called "Friends of the Greenwich Museum" was foiled by Scotland Yard. Charges were not filed.

But had heard that another paddle tug had been sent to the knacker's yard up the River Tyne a year or two earlier. On a hunch, he inquired. The Eppleton Hall hadn't been scrapped. But its woodwork, decks and all, had been burned out. He bought the fire ravaged derelict. "She's all mine," he exclaimed. In 1969, the River Tyne was still alive with major shipbuilding so rebuilding the Eppie at the R.B. Harrison shipyard Tyneside was like a duck in water. There were even engineers on hand who had spent a lifetime operating her archaic engines.

The Eppie was born to the cold drizzle of North England in 1914. She was built as a tugboat for the coal trade, working the rivers Tyne and Wear. These rivers flow to the stormy North Sea, but she was a river tug, designed to turn on a shilling in these narrow rivers. She had side paddle wheels and two steam engines, one connected to each wheel. Forward on starboard and reverse on port spins the Eppie in place.

The "side lever grasshopper" steam engines, dating back to the Industrial Revolution, were ancient technology even in 1914, but they were workhorses. Under steam, down in the engine room, each engine has a single vertical cylinder that strokes up and down and raises and lowers the massive side levers. For part of the stroke, cold water injected into the cylinder creates suction, just like the earliest of James Watt's steam engines. Those side levers are connected to a crank on the horizontal paddle wheel shaft. When maneuvering in harbor, one

Karl Kortum started the National Maritime Museum in San Francisco, including gathering all the ships now moored along Hyde Street pier.

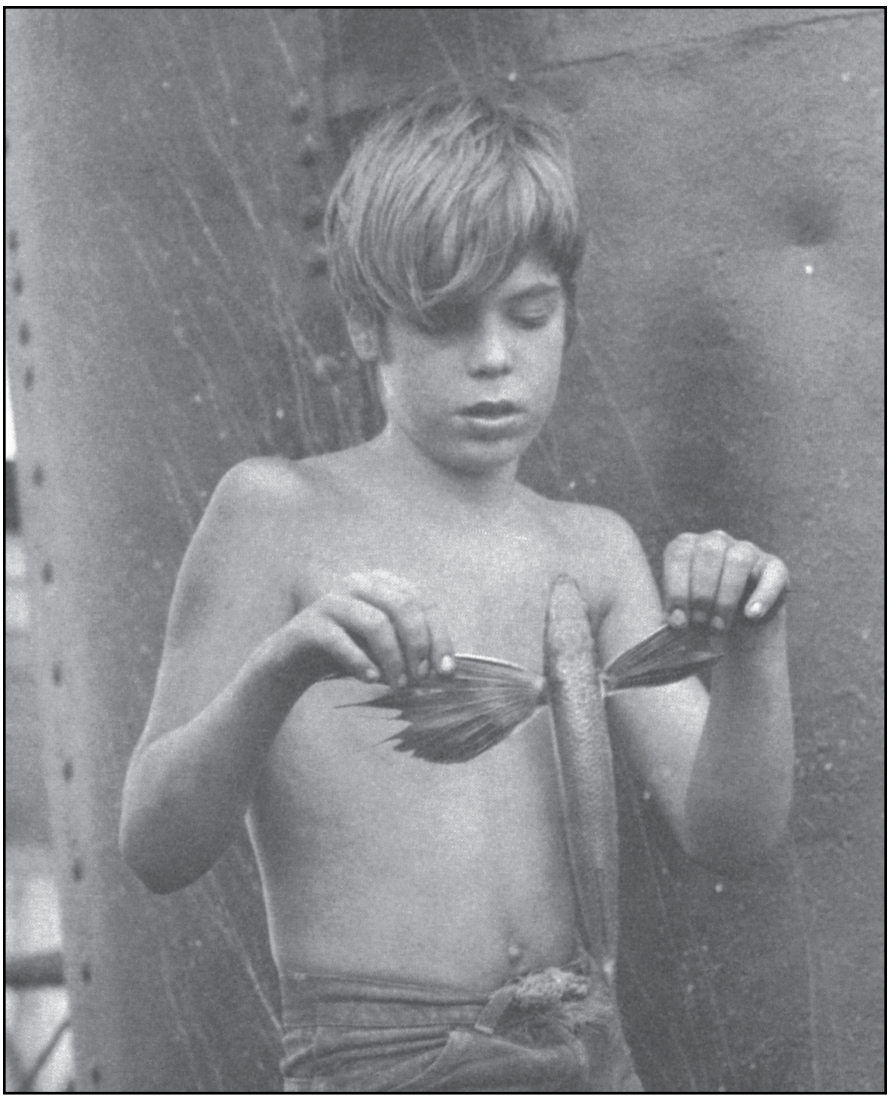
engineer would use a lot of skill and his brute strength — more than I had as a kid of eleven — to push and pull a lever to operate the steam valve for the port engine and another engineer would do the same for the starboard engine, all the while doing an intricate dance on floor pedals that controlled the steam flow. Her basic boilers took on river water, not salt — even that of the polluted Tyne. "Don't fall in," the shipyard workers told me.

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, replete with ribbons and medals, hosted a ceremony for our departure. The local press covered the send off of this zany — maybe foolhardy — voyage to San Francisco. Down the Tyne we paddled to the open North Sea, right into a storm that blew tiles off roofs onshore. We discovered the Eppie took the weather well. At age 11, I didn't know I'd have to stand watch twice a day. I threw a fit that was quickly shut down. No shirkers tolerated. From then on, I stood watch.

Scott was Captain and my father was Chief Mate. Scott's 23 year old nephew, Kip Waldo, was 2nd Mate and celestial navigator. I stood the 4 to 8 watch with 3rd Mate Bill Bartz, no breaks. Up at 4:00 am. Bill, a former square rigger shipmate of my father during WWII, was a hard- driving man. I've never met his equal. He kept ship, and did it well. But that meant I had to work. Two of seven of his kids were aboard, Billy as 3rd engineer, Heidi as deck crew and watch keeper. My cousin Max Durney was promoted to Chief Engineer at age 20, when the original Chief departed in the Canary Islands. A Balclutha hand, Richard Childress, served as 2nd Engineer. Franci Neale served as cook and purser for most of the voyage, and was assisted by Jeanne Maher up to the Canary Islands. We were a mix of young and old, greenhorn and old-timer.

Until this voyage, the Eppie burned coal. For this voyage, her boilers were converted to diesel. There was no history of consumption. We put into Dover for fuel. I recall I joined my shipmates in a local pub and, being underaged, hid behind a newspaper to read the Andromeda Strain. Next stop, Lisbon.

We hit another storm crossing the Bay of Biscay. Before it had ended, the engineers sounded the tanks. Diesel was low, then it was out. We couldn't raise steam. The storm abated and the next day it was relatively calm. Radio calls went out. A "reefer," that is, a refrigerator ship, came to our rescue. We rafted together and with a small hose we took on fuel that carried us to Lisbon. It probably took days for the reefer's master to recover from the drink Scott plied him with. "Cast off fore and aft," he slurred as the ships fell off.



Author John Kortum, aged 11, inspects a flying fish caught during the Atlantic crossing

Despite my youth, I had a sense that Lisbon was a trip back in time. Like a painting in a museum, the magnificent Tagus River was decorated with graceful sailing lighters. An ancient steamer lay down the quay from us, awaiting scrapping. The historic city showed little signs of modernity.

After Lisbon, we punched through yet another storm on the way to the beautiful, verdant, terraced island of Madeira. Then to Las Palmas in the Canaries, which for some ships is the departure point for a transatlantic crossing. But the Eppie needed the shortest distance across the pond, so we next headed to the arid Cape Verde Islands. We anchored at Mindelo, São Vicente. Ashore, I saw the shanties of the utterly impoverished and saw children I was told had been maimed to become more pitiful and so more successful beggars.

For the crossing, we took on a deck load of 175 fifty-five gallon drums of diesel fuel. As the deck was full, I had to slip and slide over their oily tops to tend the kerosene running lamps.

The steady thump, thump, thump of the paddle wheels took us across the Atlantic day and night. When the engine's flapper valves needed maintenance in mid-Atlantic, we shut down and drifted for a few hours. It's a funny feeling going for a swim with the bottom thousands of feet down.

As we inched to South America, Kip emptied the drums one-by-one into the fuel tanks. Would we make it to Georgetown, Guyana? My father suggested that Scott should throw his wooden leg into the boiler's fire tube — his leg had been amputated in the 1930s after being bitten by a bug on his honeymoon sailing voyage down the coast of Mexico. Kip took sun sights and computed how far we had to go by a hand wound chronometer. The sea changes as land is near and birds appear. We could tell we were close. We had crossed but did we have fuel to reach the Demerara River? We did. Barely. Maybe a half-day's worth after twenty-one days at sea.

The muddy Demerara flowed out of the South American jungle alive with catfish, a few of which ended up on our plates. I've steered clear of catfish ever since. The Demerara rum was a hit, but not for me with my father aboard. We visited a native tribe up in the jungle that squeezed cassava root packed into a woven tube that hung from a tree and stretched in length and compressed in girth when someone sat upon a stick on the bottom end. It was a food and a way of life I had never imagined. It seemed like vintage National Geographic stuff to me, not the way people really live.

On to Port of Spain, Trinidad, for Christmas. Fresh eggs, not powdered, first for a long time. But there was a brouhaha when the cook scrambled them. We thumped, thumped, thumped—the sound of the paddle boards hitting the water—down the Spanish Main to Willemstad, Curaçao to arrive off the port in the dark to the sight and sound of New Year's Eve fireworks. I scrounged for firecrackers the next day in the gutters of that beautiful town and terrorized the cook.

We steamed west, past the Gulf of Maracaibo and its oil wells, destined for Cartagena, Colombia. Somewhere, during my morning 4 to 8 watch I dozed off while steering. I was standing, my 4 foot 11 inch frame resting against the wheel, my head between the spokes, eyes drooping, the binnacle before me. I caught myself and saw I was off the compass course. I swung the wheel hard and drove a spoke into my mouth. I tasted ivory and blood. No one cared. Get back to steering! And, to make it worse, my watchmates said that we weren't going to Cartagena, which sent me into a crying fit. That turned out to be a joke. It was a cruel morning.

One evening my shipmates and I returned from the old colonial town of Cartagena and crossed through the gate into the dock lands. On foot, we had long way to go to the Eppie. An old truck with running boards came by and we ran to it to snag a ride. It passed. I asked my shipmates why that man over there had a silver thing in his hand. It was a gun. Maybe he would have fired it if we had jumped the truck.

Eppie's last sail from Newcastle UK, to San Franciso.

A nasty, sharp storm hit as we approached Colon, Panama. It knocked out the light on the jetty end, but we threaded the channel in the dark. It also washed trees and debris into Lake Gatun, the lake in the middle of the Panama Canal that feeds the locks in both directions. That's not a big issue for propeller ships, but it's a danger for a paddle wheeler to catch a tree in a wheel. The canal company generously sent a tug and two barges ahead of us to sweep the waters.

On the other side, now in the Pacific, we turned right and steamed north along the coast of Panama. We slipped between the islands of Jicaron and Coiba, the latter Panama's Alcatraz, in calm seas infested with poisonous sea snakes, which no doubt enhanced prison security.

Having weathered a sharp Papagayo off northern Costa Rica, we entered Corinto, Nicaragua for fuel and boiler maintenance. A crew of local laborers, skinny enough to fit through the manholes, climbed inside the two boilers with chipping hammers and chipped off the salt encrustation layer caused by taking on salt rather fresh water. To this day, I think it must have been a job from hell. This work lasted days, giving the crew time to go up country to visit a finca owned by the Somoza family, who somehow Scott knew. On his visit, my cousin Max was handed a pistol just in case it was needed, and was asked casually, "do you know how to use this?"

Leaving Corinto, I came down with a really bad case of dysentery. It must have been the chitlins and raw milk in Corinto. With my father, I was put ashore at the roadstead of San Jose, Guatemala. After two IVs in a doctor's breezy beach front cabana, we drove inland through a terrain of glowing volcanoes to a sanatorium in Escuintla. Better care, but I wasn't shaking the runs. I was then taken to the country's best hospital in Guatemala City, where I was seen by doctor who studied at UCSF. There was a day of no medicines to clear the system, a day for tests—diagnosed as Shigella—and then a day beginning new medicines. I strengthened within days.

My father left to rejoin the shorthanded Eppie. I stayed for a while with an American couple who worked for our fuel supplier, and then flew to California, and rejoined the Eppie in San Diego for the coastal passage to San Francisco.

It's been 55 years but I remember the night clearly. The sea was calm, low rollers, and the fog socked us in but not so thick that the moon was obscured. I had the midnight to 4:00 am watch with Kip and we steamed slowly back and forth outside the Golden Gate, killing time, so as to arrive triumphantly in daylight. Bill Bartz, a man of incredible energy, had been cleaning up the vessel even more than usual. We were ready. The men had shaved and donned their khakis and epaulettes.

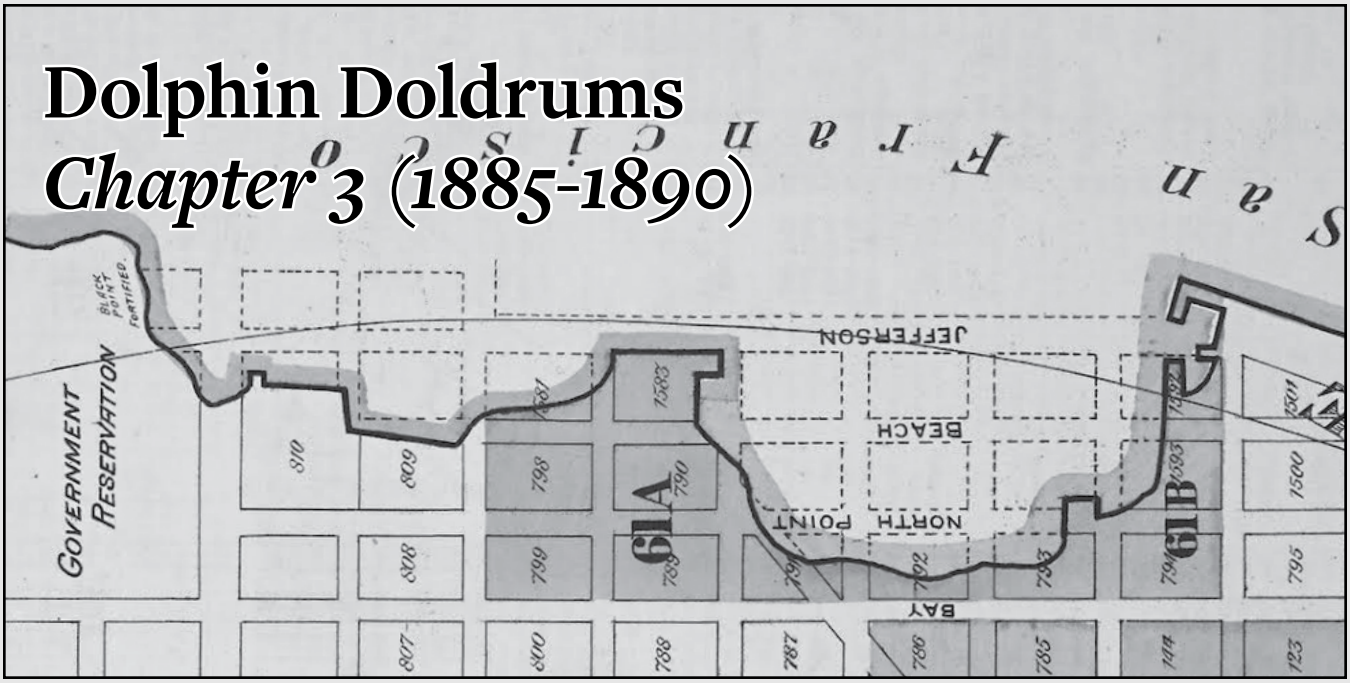
Six months had passed since we departed Newcastle on September 18, 1969. It had taken much longer than anticipated, and long enough for the truant officer to knock on my mother's door.

For the older among us, I suppose arriving home was a relief. For me, still 11, I wasn't sure why it had to end. I had ridden on a jet airplane, studied model steam engines at the Science Museum, used the steam hammer at R.B. Harrison's shipyard, learned to stand watch, lived through vicious storms and calm, seen London, Newcastle, Dover, Lisbon, Las Palmas, São Vicente, Georgetown, Port of Spain, Curaçao, Cartagena, the Panama Canal, Corinto, parts of Guatemala, San Diego and now, home. I had seen wealth and the ancient Westminster Abbey in London, worked sail in Lisbon, taken the knock out of brass engine bearings. I had seen poverty in the shanties of São Vicente, walked the oily tops of the deck load of 175 drums of oil for the Atlantic crossing, gone swimming in the middle of the Atlantic, seen jungle life outside Georgetown, poisonous sea snakes between Islas Jicaron and Coiba, the sorry lot of laborers who were hired to climb inside the boilers to chip away the encrusted salt. I had learned about steam—where 19 pounds of pressure could get us—and steam engines—contraptions of water, fire, oil, iron, and brass—and showered under the safety valve runoff tank in warm fresh water. I had been entrusted with responsibility and treated like crew. I had found a kind of music in the thunk-thunk-thunk of the paddle wheel blades hitting the water and that slow, powerful sound made by the side-lever grasshopper engines as they slid up and down, seemingly forever.

Being young, when time is slower, I did not have the feeling it would end. But perhaps no longer scrubbing the heads, chipping and painting, cleaning lamp black from the lantern chimneys, or even getting up in the middle of the night would not be so bad.

After dawn, the former Coast Guard cutter Alert appeared out of the fog with our relatives. While the Alert was rolling wildly and her passengers were sick, the Eppie, with her paddle wheels and sponsons, rolled gently in the same waves. Old, good technology: a sound ship. The Eppie had gotten us home.

Dolphin Doldrums
Chapter 3 (1885-1890)



This is Chapter 3 of Sid Hollister's history of the Dolphin Club. For the previous installment, see Fall 2023

Recovering from the tragic death of John Wieland and his daughter, Bertha, took the Dolphins—and the rowing community—some time, but, as many Dolphins know, the water, whether you are in it or on it, can ease the pain of many losses. Calm days continued to entice rowers out onto the Bay, even though squalls, then as now, could spring up at any moment and risk swamping them. The uncertainty added an edge to intra-club competitions, including two four-man Dolphin barges racing around Alcatraz, which won 20 French dinners for the victors. Winning such dinners or an elegantly designed medal of gold or other precious metal instead of money preserved the winners' amateur standing. Most clubs, including the Dolphins, had both amateur and professional crews.

Canadian Ned Hanlan continued to dominate head-to-head competition, setting a record in Detroit for a two-mile course, though records on such courses were always iffy because of variable weather conditions. Hotels drawing crowds for such competitions often put up side bets for as much as $2,500. Competitors from the United States and Australia kept Hanlan from always taking first place.

With races between the world's top rowers drawing thousands, the contests became a magnet for anyone looking to try their luck at wagering, or, forgoing luck, applying their dubious skills to the ancient occupations of picking pockets and strong-arming spectators. A race near Philadelphia drew thousands to the banks of the Schuylkill River. Once the spectator area was filled, duplicitous promoters closed the gates, letting in only their low-life brethren. Pickpockets and their sidekicks moved through the crowd. When a race was on a river along a railroad line, its cars were packed with spectators buying refreshments and cheering on their favorites. Pickpockets had an easy time swiping purses and pocketbooks. As long as they got their share of the gate, race promoters paid no attention to the larcenous shenanigans of their "associates."

Boxing had given way to rowing and baseball emerged, becoming a popular sport in the Bay Area from the 1860s on. For example, a baseball game between Dolphins and South Ender's in July of 1887 was won by the South End boys, 28 to 27, the losers having to treat the winners to a French dinner. Multi-game series between teams around the Bay Area drew thousands, as did a three-game series between the Eagles from the City and the Wide Awakes from Oakland. By the 1880s, an original Dolphin, Val Kehrlein (who had become a Triton), was the captain of San Francisco's first team, whose uniforms carried the City's name. This rage for "America's game" was so great nationwide that it gave birth to the unforgettable popular classic, Casey at the Bat by Ernest Thayer, first published in the San Francisco Examiner in 1888.

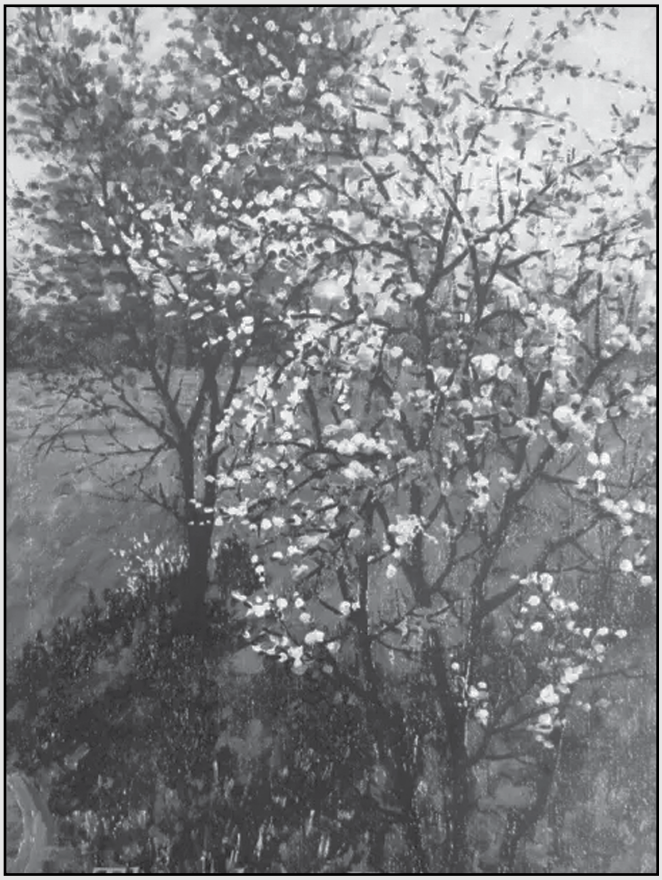
Another popular sport at annual outings held by the Dolphins and other social organizations was tug-of-war. It became such a regular event at these picnics—the Club's annual outing usually drew over 2000 people—it became an Olympic event from 1900-1920.

The neighborhood of Fisherman's Wharf continued to change, with people always searching for ways to cut corners. Ships regularly stole sand from North Beach for ballast, though it was sorely needed to support bay-side roads. The City was constantly quarreling with the scavengers, asking them to move their malodorous sand dumps into the main channel of the Bay from their more convenient location—for them—in North Beach. One paper reported: "The horrible stench from the dumps has already caused so many deaths that the residents there protest ...against the constant presence of zygotic (severely infectious) diseases," among them diphtheria, scarlet fever, and whooping cough. The dumps did have their supporters, however, who scavenged through the fetid sludge for any item that might have value. It could always be cleaned up. Those with hip boots waded into the muck to pull out possible treasures, while the fish heads and spines tossed on top of the surging filth near the shoreline always brought boys a few coins from crab fishermen looking for cheap bait.

Near Black Point Beach, women workers at the Pioneer Woolen Mills, which made uniforms for the Union Army until a few years

after the Civil War, would take breaks resting on the hillside next to the factory or on their way walking home, The ladies often became spectators of the swimmers and sunbathers. As The San Francisco Chronicle noted, " the young men among them often cavorted in a stage of almost complete undress to tease the observing ladies, who were more amused than shocked." Nonetheless, the police sometimes hauled a couple of the rascals in for a "dressing down and a charge of misdemeanor. After a few days, of course, the lads were back at it, undressed as usual.

The beach was not the only place where males used a state of partial nudity to draw female attention. "Living Statuary" became a major attraction for the ladies at the Olympic Club after one club member "attitudinized "as a famous piece of sculpture, carefully placed clothing draping his well-toned physique. Such posturing became a craze, quickly spreading to the other clubs, and, Zeus knows, maybe to Chicago and New York. Men posed to imitate famous figures sculpted in stone or depicted in paintings. Such a physique reflected, at least in female minds of the day (has it changed all that much?), a spirited intelligence as well as manly physical grace. A newspaper article astutely commented that these qualifications are not often combined. Nevertheless, the chosen few for this activity were considered the City's exemplars of physical and intellectual refinement. Women quickly joined the exhibitions, their subtle sensual beauty and poise reflecting an intelligence to match



Artist: Dolphin Club member Theodore Wores who traveled to Japan in the 1880s.

the more muscular men. "Attitudinizing" caught on with the many fit members of the City's rowing and swimming clubs.

A more conventional artistic creation that won a Dolphin international acclaim were the oil paintings of Theodore Wores. Upon returning to San Francisco in late 1887, after three years in Japan, Wores earned widespread praise for his depictions of traditional Japanese life, equaling the praise he had earlier received for his paintings of San Francisco's Chinatown and traditional landscapes.

A *Popular Science Monthly* article in July, 1886, highly recommended sea bathing as a "most health-giving and enjoyable diversion." Among its many words of advice, however, the article admits that "...such bathing does not agree with everybody." That helps explain why rowing was so popular, above all when ladies were invited to be escorts. Sunday destinations were opportunities for a picnic or a lively merriment, such as at Harbor View in the Marina near the foot of Fillmore Street, which provided dancing, dining, hot salt water baths, and even a shooting range, and. The Wieland, a large six-oared pleasure barge built in San Francisco by Art Rogers, and named for the Club founder, joined the Club fleet in May 1887, and was especially suitable for such jaunts. It was claimed that "...she has not her equal on the Bay." So often were the ladies passengers in the splendid craft that they created not only a miniature American flag for its stern but "a blue satin, white-bordered pennant of the Club, with the initials D.C. embroidered in white satin." Maturing from passengers to rowers did not take women long.

Since they had already taken to the water, they also received some counsel on what to wear while swimming. One writer, for the Chicago Record, had this advice: "A stocking-net garment that goes from heel to shoulder is best...Over that a long Russian blouse of silk or alpaca, loosely belted and with short sleeves. Every muscle can then work smoothly, the blouse throwing off the water and remaining light." With this spiffy and assuredly practical attire, any woman can swim, the writer wrote. In the warmer late summer and early fall months some San Francisco bathers no doubt proved his point, donning both stylish and slapdash attire to enjoy the Bay's bracing waters. What the men wore was no less fashionable

Female visitors to the Bay 's many rowing and swimming clubs found the water—being in it or on it— more and more inviting so that pleasure barges accommodating several delighted passengers became common. In fact, in the South, a Louisiana Boat Club made it a custom to have a woman with each rower whenever a boat went out.

San Francisco developed a reputation for crafting wooden boats. The boat shop of J.D. Griffin built a four-man barge for the Dolphins, so admired by followers of the rowing scene that it was said that the "big crew of the Dolphins would make a good race in it with any crew on the Bay." In February of 1889 the rowers were Edward Peterson, stroke; G. Promack, after waist; F. Conway, forward waist; G. van Guelpen, bow, with Ed Griffen, cox.

In San Francisco, swimming continued to be as popular as rowing, with the same names popping up frequently.

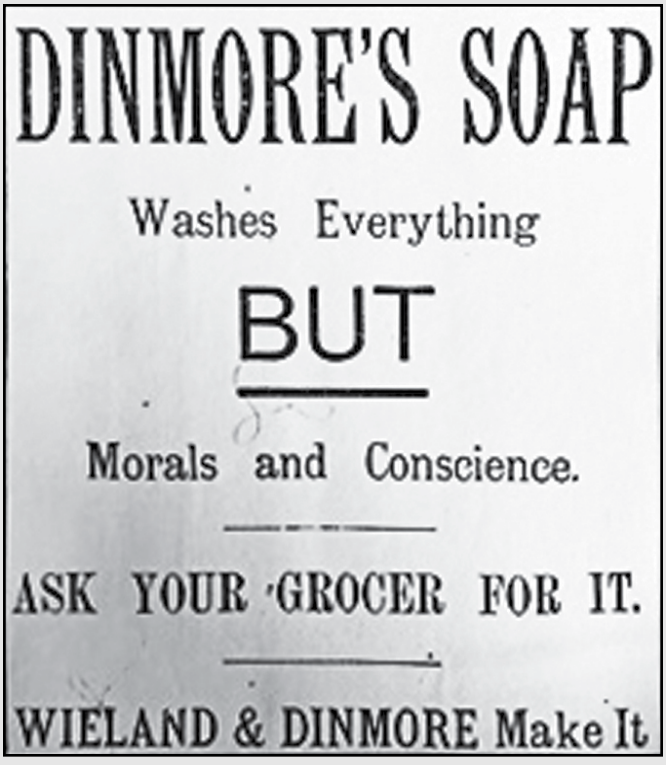
Joseph P. Flemming, the West Coast champion swimmer, and George Collins rescued many swimmers in Alameda. Flemming challenged George Goetz,, a London swimming teacher, to a quarter-mile open water swim for $2,500. Goetz refused but did accept a swim from the Cliff House to Seal Rock for a stake of $250. Flemming won, as he usually did.

As usual, they both carried knives to ward off sharks. One of the feared white sharks, ten feet long and weighing around 300 pounds, got tangled in a fisherman's net off Black Point. After a tremendous struggle, in which the shark demonstrated its "enormous strength... striking with its tail and endeavoring to bite anybody who would molest it..." it was finally hauled out on the docks and subdued with the help of some local soldiers.

Seal Rocks drew the attention of many aquatic showmen. The famous Captain Paul Boynton put on an exhibition from the rocks in his unique rubber suit, drawing 5,000 spectators to the Cliff House and surrounding hillside. From a raft of old logs, the good captain fired rockets, cooked a meal, and stood up in the water in his famous suit. To cap off his show, he blew up his raft with a "torpedo" of some sort. The unexpected force of the explosion knocked people from their seats on the outdoor balcony of the Cliff House and blew out many of its windows. "A bit unexpected," Boynton commented.

Boynton was not alone in the world of aquatic adventurers. A wide variety of remarkable athletes from all over the world earned newspaper headlines by being the "first" to accomplish one athletic feat or another. William Hermance of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, was one of them, rowing 4,500 miles from the Yellowstone River's headwaters in Montana to the Missouri, then to the Mississippi and the Gulf, arriving in January of 1887 after a remarkable fifteen-month journey.

Closer to home, a crew of female Tritons entered the Bay Area racing world in April of the same year, which greatly pleased former Dolphin—and a Triton officer—Val Kehrlein. True to his mischievous reputation he frequently invited a comely lady to accompany him in his canoe. Its name, "Coffin," accurately reflected how easily it tipped over, giving Kehrlein the opportunity to "save" his passenger from certain death, at least as this inveterate showman would have it somewhere.



This was a city on one of the world's great bays, and the water, though usually a bit chilly, was an ever-present magnet for its lovers. Several thousand men and women showed up on a moonlit August night to swim near Harbor View. Some members of the Neptune and California boat clubs carried torches on that balmy night as they swam into the Bay. It was magical, tempting some revelers to linger in the cold water after the torches went out and most of the crowd had left: they drowned in the darkness.

Swimmers, revelers, and fishermen all risked the same fate. Three close fishing friends, hoping to benefit one night from a strong incoming tide near Hunter's Point, a popular fishing spot, drowned when their boat swamped, as friends watched helplessly from shore, the lights they carried going out one by one. But fortune is fickle, so on a different day two Dolphins, Charles Lewald and H. Liesenfeld, in the Whitehall The Nameless, caught 20 pounds of fish in just a few hours, a normal day for the duo.

In 1886, the Dolphin Club membership was set at 50. With more members, the Club building needed a new foundation for its boathouse and it got one in August of that year. Some administrative reorganization consequently was also called for and in 1889 the Club was incorporated, with H.W. Wieland, G.G. Katz, and H.M. Wreden as directors.

Changes were also being made in the physical aspects of Aquatic Park. Selby Smelter moved to the East Bay in 1885,and in 1889, the Pioneer Woolen Mills also closed, putting its 800 employees, out of work. This gave the Dolphins, in 1889, the chance to use one of its deserted buildings for a famous Club bang-up jollification. More and more party-goers showed up, with others on the way, but when the floor started creaking under the weight of the merrymakers, party organizers told everyone to skedaddle.

In 1893 Dominico Ghirardelli bought the abandoned Pioneer buildings, which had sometimes been the site of several Dolphin Club parties, and reinforced them for his chocolate company.

Dolphin parties continued, of course. One of its largest was always the annual picnic, usually at Camp Taylor, now Taylor State Park north of San Francisco. In 1887 it drew over 2,000 people— adults and children–: so many people that two trains were needed to take the revelers north from their terminal in Marin. Two Club members had a wordy dispute in the midst of the merriment that eventually was resolved when a makeshift ring was set up and a referee and seconds selected to keep things on the up-and-up. The Dolphins also built a new foundation for the Club in the summer of 1887, to ensure that its jollifications would survive the many celebrants they attracted.

Life in and around the Bay Area depended, naturally enough, on water transportation. On the cold morning of February 28, 1889, the aging steamer, Julia, was full of young men, huddled around the ships old boilers to get warm as they headed for work at nearby ports. The steamer was about to start its normal route from Vallejo to Port Costa when its boilers blew up, instantly killing 28 men, frightfully injuring 30 more with scalding water, and burning the ship to the water line. One of the those who died was Dolphin Michael Higgins. The owners of such dilapidated ships paid medical expenses for the injured. The families of the those killed in such accidents received nothing.

The absence of the mill and the Selby smelter, two economic pillars of the Aquatic Park area, led to other changes that directly affected the City's swimmers. The dilapidated wooden changing sheds on the beach, battered by years of rain and wind, slowly disappeared and were replaced by modern comfortable swimming facilities, like the Crystal Plunge at the corner of Lombard and Mason streets, (Dolphin Walt Schneebeli swam at the Plunge as a teenager), the water for which was piped in from the cleaner center of the Bay. A milkman who often swam there nearly drowned one day, but was saved by being rolled back and forth over a barrel to clear his lungs of water.

The palatial Sutro Baths out on the ocean were so expansive that lifeguards in small row boats patrolled its several large pools . None of these pools were open in 1888 to Professor Peter Jackson, a black champion pugilist and swimmer from Australia . New cross-town cable lines brought more people to North Beach, adding more rowers to the summer boaters. In 1889, Frank Staib, for which the Club's weight room is named, was elected to the Club,

Though his high-life style had dropped Ned Hanlan from the top ranks of single scullers, he often raced and won in a double with one of his single rivals as his partner. Managing rowers also became his biggest money-maker, as it did for other well-known rowers, earning him $5,000 in just a couple of winning races. A recession lasted from the end of the Civil War to the opening of the 20th century, with a couple of depressions thrown in to deepen the despair. The cold waters of the Bay offered terminal relief to those whose lives fell apart under the pressure. Their clothes, with a farewell note in a pocket, were often found in one of the dilapidated wooden bathhouses on Aquatic Park beach. The wobbly economic situation sparked several labor disputes. One of the worst and most deep-rooted was between the Chinese cigar wrappers and the White cigar wrappers, whose treasurer, G.W. Van Guelpen, was a top Dolphin rower.

The best of the rowers were always looking for ways to make a few dollars and promoters were happy to help out. In 1889 some of the world's best scullers participated for a weekend in a "road-sculling" competition in Madison Square Garden, pedaling a contraption whose wheels were turned by a "rower," a kind of rowing bicycle. The prize money for the weekend competition was greater than for any rowing regatta, with $1500 awarded to the top overall rower and $250 to the top rower of each day. It drew crowds to the new arena and to both bicycling and rowing.

A more conventional kind of bicycling was on the rise—in particular, long road rides. Theodore and Eddie Kragness made headlines by some of their excursions, including one from Minneapolis to San Francisco, which they accomplished in 38 days of peddling on rough roads through river valleys and deserts, sandstorms and blizzards.

Robert Wieland, son of club founder, John Wieland, was voted "Most Outstanding Native Son of the Golden West". Circa 1889.

In August of 1891, Sophie Weiland, John Wieland's widow, died at the age of 63. Five Wieland sons had died by September of 1890. At his death, John Weiland left a fortune of $3.5 to $4 million dollars and a heritage of remarkable generosity, which his wife continued. Son Robert inherited his parents' benevolent character and was voted by an overwhelming margin the most outstanding Native Son of the Golden West in a statewide contest sponsored by the San Francisco Examiner. Of the winner, the Examiner wrote: "His charities have always been liberal, characteristic of true generosity and of the Wieland family...Though he is ever at home among the humble, he is always the peer of the best."

As the Dolphin Club moved into the 1890s, it was losing its appeal;, new members considered how to deal with the City's growth, and looked at joining the San Francisco Yacht Club in Sausalito. Older members, fearing a loss of identity were not in favor And a new decade of City development was about to improve the Club's prospects.

A Short Farewell

Twenty summers ago, relaxing in the sauna a couple of months into my retirement, the then club president, Ken Coren casually asked me if I would be interested in editing this newsletter.

Since then, some things in this club have not changed. "1877 "on the outer wall still sets a tone which a glance into the Staib Room reinforces. Those boats have been kept shipshape over manty decades by master craftsman Jon Bielinski. Our roots are secure and the distinguished shining Whitehalls proudly confirm the club's history.

But much too has changed, especially the boating program which is no longer just for rowers. Under the enthusiastic guidance of James Dlilworth, the club's interior overflows with all measure of craft. And the youthful membership—nearly three times what it was when I joined—is lining up to try them all.

Much of the credit for the club's health and expansion goes to two people, the omnipresent Diane Walton who has embraced the role of President many times, and to the multi-talented John Hornor who can build saunas, design buildings, cajole meetings and recite poetry appropriate to any occasion.

But now it is time for someone else to grasp the tiller of the *Dolphin Log*, Raconteur and amateur historian Larry Scroggins has volunteered to take the helm.

Keith Howell, Editor Emeritus

Who won the rowing marathon to Stockton?

The two erstwhile rival crews join for a group photo: Top Row: Don Osbourne (DC), Noah Villagomez (DC), Vanessa Marlin (SERC), James Dilworth (DC), Jay Karimi (DC), Abbie Wolf (SERC), Alli Sillins (DC), Lower Row: Bobby from McAvoy Marina, Adriana Ameri (DC), Charmaine Leonard (DC), Shannon Pierson (SERC)

James Dilworth

In 1927, the Dolphin Club proposed an intrepid 88-mile rowing marathon to Stockton. The South End, Alameda, and Ariel clubs were invited to compete. The race was announced in the Chronicle, and would be a "go as you please affair in which the teams could keep going until the finish without a stop, or make any port they desire for rest or refreshments."

The water route to Stockton goes up over San Pablo Bay, through Carquinez Strait, along Suisun Bay, and then – once you enter the Delta – there are many different cuts and sloughs that can be followed for the last stretch to Stockton.

But newspaper archives and Dolphin history yielded no information on the results of the 1927 marathon. What happened? Did it even happen?

We found ourselves discussing this with our SERC neighbors one morning in late September. The Dolphin and South End rowing programs have become friendlier and more connected in recent years. We go on joint rows and camping trips together, we help fix each other's boats, and we participate in each other's events, including our new Quadstravaganza series.

And so it was soon resolved that the best way to resolve the Stockton Marathon mystery would be to row it over again.

Fall is probably the nicest time of year to row into the Delta. The strong summer winds and oppressive heat die down, yielding to calm days and mellow temperatures. With the season coming to a close, we had only a couple weeks to pull together a crew and a plan.

We set off for Stockton on a beautiful sunny Saturday in late October. The departure was timed to coincide with a strong flood to help us along. Each boat has four rowing stations, and a seat for the coxswain, who steers. They're seaworthy, they're stable, and they're very tolerant of knocks and scrapes.

So, it was two boats, ten people, an anchor, food, and a motley collection of dry bags with camping gear lashed to the decks.

The crews settled into a rhythm of rowing for about an hour, followed by a quick break on convenient beaches, rotating crew through the cox seat at each stop. The water was calm up until Point Pinole,

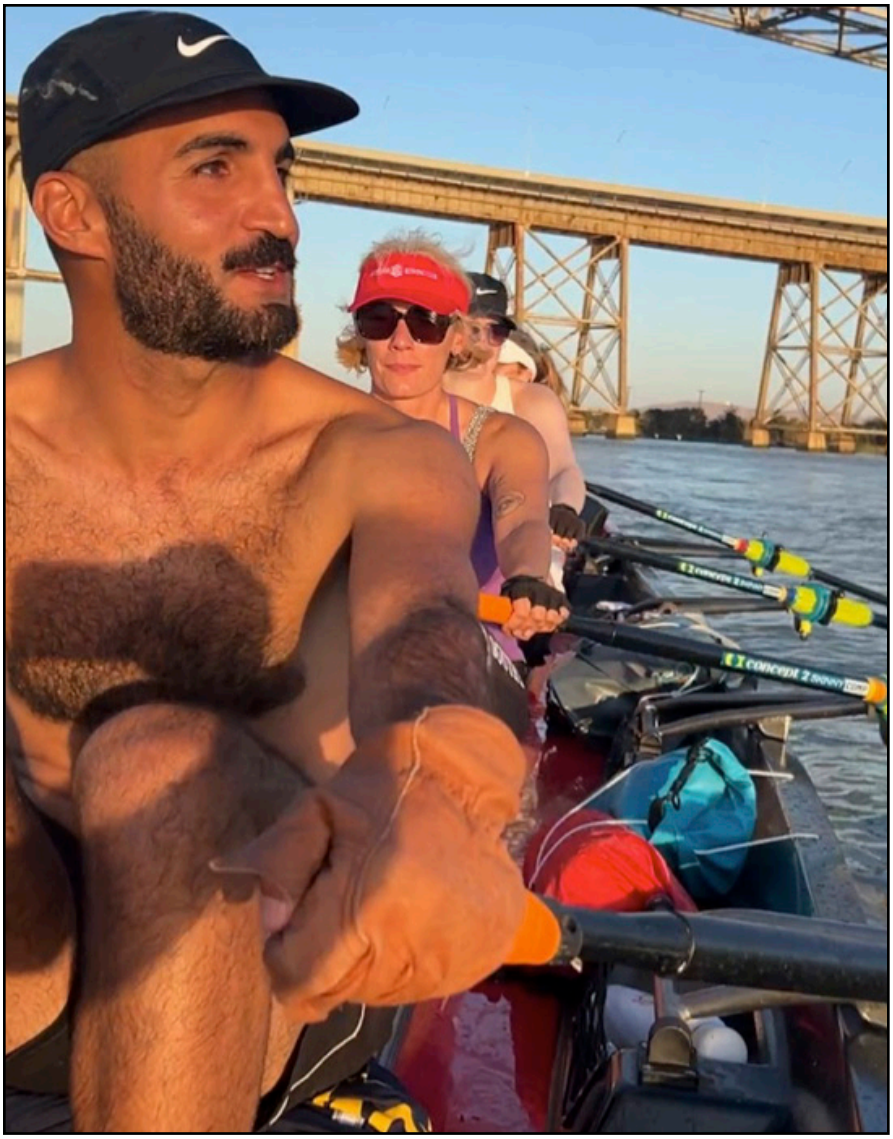
but then as we approached the Carquinez Strait, the wind grew stronger until the seas were quite choppy and difficult to row through. It was a long slog to Benicia, where we pulled in for a late lunch.

It turns out the first lesson in long distance rowing is not to stop for lunch when the current is in your favor. We ate a full meal, and then napped as the afternoon sun dropped in the sky. By the time we were on our way again, the current had turned and we were rowing into an ebb.

Suisun Bay is a big stretch of water with a marshy shoreline, and there aren't a lot of places to stop and camp. After a couple hours of difficult rowing and slow progress, we stopped on a muddy beach to evaluate our options. Adriana fell in the water. Everyone was tired, and we would have happily given up if it weren't for the rapacious mosquitos and the lack of any place to set up a tent.

It seemed like a low point, but a break and a stretch can do wonders. We discovered shards of broken Chinese crockery lining the shore. We passed around a bottle of grog, and then we watched a full moon rise over the islands to the east. That lifted our spirits. We got back in the boats, rowing east into the night, for who knows where, with the light of the moon guiding our way. It was a magical experience. Camaraderie and tunes overcame aches and blisters. We hugged the shoreline as close as we could, looking for current relief behind piers, until we made it to a run-down marina at 10 pm, where we were finally able to camp for the night.

The next day was calm, beautiful, and sunny. We had a leisurely breakfast and set off together bound toward Stockton, but not really in a hurry to get there. We'd covered almost 50 miles on the first day,



All thoughts of competition abandoned, Jay Karimi (DC) and Vanessa Marlin (SERC) row beneath the Benicia-Martinez bridge. (James Dilworth)

but there were still another 40 to go. As we rowed east we took time to explore channels off the beaten path, and navigate through Sherman Lake. We took breaks, relaxed in the sunshine, went for a swim, laughed and played. As the afternoon wore on, we decided that Charmaine's brother's house on Bethel Island would be a fine eastern endpoint for the weekend. Stockton could wait for another year.

The following weekend rotating crews took three days to row the boats back to the clubs. More laughs were had, more calluses were made, more friendships were formed. A fun video can be viewed of the full journey here: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkObIpNclpw*

So who won the race?

Well, just as we'd given up on looking for clues to the 1927 event, Daniel Marshall recalled seeing a trophy in the SERC cabinet. We went looking for it, and found the Stockton Rowing Marathon Trophy. It was awarded to SERC for an impressive time of 15 hours and 32 minutes.

So next year, we'll have to set our sights on taking back the plaque, and the Stockton Cup! - or at the very least just have more fun.

Dolphin/SERC Triathalon 2024

For what was likely the lengthiest duration of the annual Dolphin-SERC Triathlon from start to finish, the 2024 competition was officially completed Nov. 2, almost seven weeks after the Sept. 15 event commenced, because of a weather postponement of the Row event. The Dolphin Row crew, led by our barge team, ultimately came in first, as did our Walk team. The DC team finished second in overall points to the South Enders, who retained the TRI plaque by prevailing in the Run, Swim, and the newly added Handball event.

Swim			
Team name	Competition	Paricipation	Total
DOLPHIN CLUB	178	73	251
SOUTH END ROWING CLUB	227	105	332

Run			
Team name	Comp	Paricipation	Total
DOLPHIN CLUB	162	31	193
SOUTH END ROWING CLUB	220	76	296

Handball			
Team name	Comp	Paricipation	Total
DOLPHIN CLUB	20	13	33
SOUTH END ROWING CLUB	20	16	36

Walk			
Team name	Comp	Paricipation	Total
DOLPHIN CLUB	0	73	73
SOUTH END ROWING CLUB	0	59	59

Row			
Team name	Comp	Paricipation	Total
DOLPHIN CLUB	119	19	138
SOUTH END ROWING CLUB	100	18	118

Triple & Quad Bonus			
Team name	Triple	Quad	Total
DOLPHIN CLUB	18	8	26
SOUTH END ROWING CLUB	12	12	24

Total			
Team name	Comp	Paricipation	Total
DOLPHIN CLUB	505	209	**714**
SOUTH END ROWING CLUB	591	274	**865**

Dolphin Club Swim Results—Fall 2024

Baykeeper (Crissy Field) Swim—August 31, 2024

This year's Crissy Field swim was co-hosted by Baykeeper and in collaboration with the San Francisco Giants. 45 swimmers completed the Crissy Field swim with a decent flood. The weather was great. Folks said the water got choppy along the Muni Pier, but otherwise it was a very smooth swim. Baykeeper provided Irish coffee and trinkets post-swim. The SF Giants provided 80 free tickets for the evening game on September 3rd. Thanks to our pilots and volunteers and all the organizations that collaborated with the Dolphin Club.

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Felicia Lee	00:41:09	10
2	Matt Korman	00:42:43	9
3	Ben Chun	00:43:48	8
4	Stephanie McGee	00:44:00	7
5	Lissi Knell	00:44:02	6
6	Suzanne Heim	00:44:38	5
7	Miranda Rouse	00:44:53	4
8	Lauren Brinkmeyer	00:44:58	3
9	Mackenzie Kirk	00:45:20	2
10	Dominick Kirk	00:45:48	1
11	Andrew Cunningham	00:47:20	
12	Bill Gardner	00:47:33	
13	Juliet Cox	00:48:02	
14	Steve Schatz	00:48:31	
15	Tor Lundgren	00:48:35	
16	Stephen Balhoff	00:49:07	
17	Nick Dolce	00:49:55	
18	Teague Harry	00:50:13	
19	Devan Nielsen	00:52:31	
20	Barnaby Payne	00:54:02	
21	Kristoffer Milonas	00:54:23	
22	Lacey Smith	00:54:48	
23	Alice Jones	00:54:57	
24	David O'Reilly	00:55:27	
25	Elspeth Farmer	00:55:42	
26	Joe Spallone	00:55:57	
27	Tony Payne	00:56:17	
28	Mickey Lavelle	00:56:20	
29	Danny Wohlner	00:57:00	
30	Brooke Blume	00:57:34	
31	Denise Sauerteig	00:57:38	
32	Kathleen Sheridan	00:57:51	
33	Virginie Eskenazi	00:58:00	
34	Karin Christenson	00:58:05	
35	Margaret Keenan	00:58:08	
36	Joe Ferrero	00:58:08	
37	Julia Peterson	00:59:55	
38	Holly Reed	01:01:03	
39	Robert Blum	01:01:30	
40	Nancy Booth	01:01:51	
41	Brooke Wentz	01:03:57	
42	Lisa Domitrovich	01:05:25	
43	Eliana Agudelo	01:05:42	
44	Robin Hart	01:08:57	
45	Peter Neubauer	01:09:40	

Pilots

Jim Frew, Nanda Palmieri, John Blackman, John Thorpe, John Robiola, George Morris, Tom McCall, Dominic Lusinchi, Rachele Mechem, Jeffrey Tong, Barry Christian, Jon Bielinski, Brian Kiernan, Erika Giste, Joshua Loman, Damian Guenzing, Steve Hagler, Steve Hanson, Gina B Rus, Dave Zovickian, James Dilworth, Don Osborne, Timothy McElligott, Heather Kremer, David Buchanan, Nihan Tiryaki, Maeve Lavelle, Ramsey Williams, Sharon Wong, Lindsay Stripling, Diane Walton, Peter Molnar

Volunteers

Eric Shupert, Eliana Agudelo, Kristoffer Milonas, Felicia Lee, Alice Jones, Aniko Kurczinak, Jamie Robinson, William Schroeder, Amy Brant, Duke Dahlin, Julian Sapirstein, Cheryl Wallace, Derrick Rebello, Sam Maslin, Beth Stein, Ken Miller, Will Powning, Lorna Newlin, Janice Wood, Elmer Tosta, Rebecca Lee Whiting, Luke Whiting, Julie Pan, John Hornor, Kerry LaBelle, Bill Brick, David O'Reilly, Nick Dolce, Tony Payne, Barnaby Payne, Elspeth Farmer, Lacey Smith, Nanda Palmieri, Dominick Kirk, Devan Nielsen, Suzanne Heim, Ken Schwarz, Diane Livia, Hal Offen, Sue Garfield, Mackenzie Kirk, Mimi Osborne

Test Swim

Derrick Rebello, Sean Lavelle, Dominic Lusinchi, Karin Christenson, Nathaniel Berger, Lindsay Stripling, Ben Chun, Bobby Lu, Will Powning, Lindzy Bivings

Joe Bruno Golden Gate—September 21, 2024

In beautifully calm conditions, all 76 swimmers who entered the water west of the South Tower this morning completed this Golden Gate swim. We waited for an inbound tug pulling a barge to pass before jumping, and communicated with another outbound that graciously slowed to allow us to safely clear the channel. With a push to the north and then east from the current, the fastest group of swimmers was done in under 25 minutes. We were joined by harbor porpoises who seem to love these waters as much as we do!

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Dominick Kirk	0:22:15	10
1	Lissi Knell	0:22:15	10
1	Mackenzie Kirk	0:22:15	10
1	Stephanie McGee	0:22:15	10
5	Lauren Au Brinkmeyer	0:22:54	6
6	Miranda Rouse	0:25:00	5
7	Steve Schatz	0:25:05	4
8	Thorsten Anderson	0:25:11	3
9	Ken Schwarz	0:25:27	2
10	Jeff Citron	0:25:34	1
11	Alex Kroeger	0:25:39	
12	Ben Clark	0:26:00	
13	Alisha Kewalramani	0:26:27	
14	Amanda Stone	0:26:52	
15	Michael Tschantz-Hahn	0:26:55	
16	Bill Brick	0:27:44	
17	Devan Nielsen	0:28:51	
18	Barnaby Payne	0:28:55	
19	Donald Thornburg	0:29:10	
20	Sean Lavelle	0:30:24	
21	Alice Jones	0:30:28	
22	Elizabeth Mayer	0:30:29	
23	Sara Wessen Chang	0:30:30	
24	Mickey Lavelle	0:30:35	
25	Kristoffer Milonas	0:30:45	
26	David O'Reilly	0:32:00	
27	Henry Rogers	0:32:01	
28	Kathleen Sheridan	0:32:04	
29	Merryl Levy	0:32:24	
30	Bobby Lu	0:33:29	
31	Joey Murphy	0:33:31	
32	Katrina Garry	0:33:39	
33	Holly Reed	0:33:45	
34	Robert Blum	0:33:50	
35	Laure Darcy	0:33:55	
36	Morgan Kulla	0:33:59	
37	Ryan Hedum	0:34:06	
38	Denise Sauerteig	0:34:13	

Swim Results Summer 2024, cont.

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
39	Colin McMahon	0:34:44	
40	Clara Ault	0:35:06	
41	Peter Cullinan	0:35:40	
42	Diane Campbell	0:35:46	
43	Rebecca Tilley	0:35:49	
44	Alice Ma	0:35:51	
45	Nancy Hornor	0:35:56	
46	Dean Badessa	0:36:02	
47	Marie Sayles	0:36:05	
48	Lisa Domitrovich	0:36:08	
49	Laura Grubb	0:36:12	
50	Luke Whiting	0:36:14	
51	Rebecca Whiting	0:36:54	
52	Julia Peterson	0:36:56	
53	Marlin Gilbert	0:37:00	
54	Lewis Haidt	0:37:07	
55	Kerry Labelle	0:37:11	
56	Keith Nelson	0:37:13	
57	Kathleen Duffy	0:37:19	
58	Ken Coren	0:38:00	
59	Peter Neubauer	0:38:33	
60	Julie Pan	0:39:00	
61	Maxwell Audette	0:39:12	
62	John Hornor	0:39:28	
63	Phil Gaal	0:39:33	
64	Sarah Roberts	0:39:34	
65	Mike Mitchell	0:39:39	
66	Lorna Newlin	0:40:34	
67	Jim Frew	0:41:39	
68	John Melcher	0:42:10	
69	Robin Hart	0:42:14	
70	Kent Myers	0:42:42	
71	Robin Rome	0:44:47	
72	Kati Hopman	0:44:54	
73	Alix Marduel	0:45:37	
74	Mary Cantini	0:46:31	
75	Sheila Gleeson	0:49:55	
76	Will Powning	0:53:02	

Pilots

Jim Frew, Nanda Palmieri, John Blackman, John Thorpe, John Robiola, George Morris, Tom McCall, Dominic Lusinchi, Rachele Mechem, Jeffrey Tong, Barry Christian, Jon Bielinski, Brian Kiernan, Erika Giste, Joshua Loman, Damian Guenzing, Steve Hagler, Steve Hanson, Gina B Rus, Dave Zovickian, James Dilworth, Don Osborne, Timothy McElligott, Heather Kremer, David Buchanan, Nihan Tiryaki, Maeve Lavelle, Ramsey Williams, Sharon Wong, Lindsay Stripling, Diane Walton, Peter Molnar

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Test Swim

Derrick Rebello, Sean Lavelle, Dominic Lusinchi, Karin Christenson, Nathaniel Berger, Lindsay Stripling, Ben Chun, Bobby Lu, Will Powning, Lindzy Bivings

Alcatraz Swim—October 26, 2024

This year's Yacht Harbor was more of a true swim as we couldn't leave later in the flood due to wind, but we had clear skies, and 57-degree water. We had to pull 2 swimmers but everyone including those pulled did alright and had a good time. Those who finished have a qualifying swim for the Golden Gate and Alcatraz swims.

Place	Name	Swim time	LCP
1	Joby Bernstein	0:26:59	10
2	Ben Chun	0:29:29	9
3	Stephanie McGee	0:30:18	8
4	Lissi Knell	0:30:25	7
5	Dominick Kirk	0:30:58	6
6	Lauren Au	0:31:10	5
7	Mackenzie Kirk	0:32:19	4
8	Miranda Rouse	0:32:40	3
9	Thorsten Anderson	0:34:08	2
10	Bill Gardener	0:34:12	1
11	Steve Schatz	0:34:25	
12	Michael Tshanz-Hahn	0:35:42	
13	Alex Kroeger	0:35:51	
14	Ken Schwartz	0:35:57	
15	Christophe Crombez	0:35:58	
16	Nick Dolce	0:37:54	
17	Jeff Citron	0:35:36	
18	Amanda Stone	0:38:56	
19	Stephen Balhoff	0:39:10	
20	Devan Nielson	0:40:04	
21	Keith Gray	0:40:41	
22	Sean Lavelle	0:40:47	
23	Teddy Chavitta	0:41:17	
24	Barnaby Payne	0:41:20	
25	Tom Bernard	0:41:26	
26	Bill Brick	0:42:17	
27	Ben Hu	0:43:04	
28	Don Thornburg	0:43:19	
29	Elspeth Farmer	0:45:27	
30	Alice Jones	0:45:47	
31	Betsy Mayer	0:46:23	
32	David O'Reilly	0:46:47	
33	Sarah Chang	0:47:23	
34	Eric Wind	0:47:41	
35	Morgan Kulla	0:47:46	
36	Danny Wohner	0:48:12	
37	Mickey Lavelle	0:48:26	
38	Henry Rogers	0:48:44	
39	Sam Maslin	0:49:50	
40	Margaret Keenan	0:50:08	
41	Lacy Smith	0:50:49	
42	Colin McMahon	0:51:00	
43	Liam Ronan	0:51:14	
44	Clara Ault	0:52:50	
45	Bob Blum	0:53:06	
46	Karin Christenson	0:53:13	
47	Luke Whiting	0:54:17	
48	Tracy Joyner	0:54:22	
49	Lewis Haidt	0:54:34	
50	Nancy Booth	0:54:47	
51	Dean Badessa	0:55:00	
52	Keith Nelson	0:55:06	
53	Julia Peterson	0:55:14	
54	Rebecaa Lee Whiting	0:55:20	
55	Marlin Gilbert	0:55:30	
56	Mike Thoresen	0:55:47	
57	Ally Sillins	0:55:49	
58	Tamar Besson	0:55:50	
59	Jamie Robinson	0:55:56	
60	Kathleen Duffy	0:56:02	
61	Lisa Domitrovich	0:56:16	
62	John Hornor	0:56:19	
63	Ken Coren	0:56:36	
64	Chloe Noonan	0:57:31	
65	Julie Pan	0:57:38	
66	Max Audette	0:58:33	

Place	Name	Swim time	LCP
67	Ken Myers	0:59:22	
68	Pete Neubauer	1:01:30	
69	Robin Hart	1:02:03	
70	Eliana Agudelo	1:05:27	
71	Hal Offen	1:05:42	
72	Phil Gaal	1:06:15	
73	Sarah Roberts	1:07:09	
74	JB Melcher	1:13:44	
75	Joe Gannon	1:13:46	

Pilots

Lead Pilot: Tim Kreuzten / Lead Swim Commissioner: Bobby Lu

Phil Reiff, Nanda Palmieri, Mallory Benedict, John "Boozer" Mervin, John Thorpe, Dominic Lusinchi, Marcus Auerbuch, Jeffrey Tong, Todd Elkins, Phil Rollins, John Robiola, Barry Christian, Jean lelu, Stu Gannes, Jon Bielinski, Grant Mays, Susan Allen, Brian Kiernan, Tamara Straus, Dave Zovickian, Jennifer Bruursema, Peter Bartu, Carol Clark, Ed Nunez, Amanda Ernzer, Jackson Tejeda, Nathaniel Berger, Carolyn Hui, Chris Wagner, Nancy Hornor, Forrest Carroll, Willis Stebbins, Ben Chains, Raine O'Connor, Tim McElligott, Scott Cauchois, Tim Kreutzen, Dave Buchanan, Ramsey Williams, Damian Guenzing, Nihan Tiryaki, Heather Kremer

Volunteers

Eric Shupert, Eliana Agudelo, Kristoffer Eric Shupert, Nancy Booth, Virginie Eskenazi, Peter Cullinan, Katie Moore, Janine Corcoran, Sue Robbins, Kathy Wallace, Andrew Cunningham, Ruby Lipscomb, Bill Schroeder, Shelby Eklund, Dave Ufferfilge, Alix Marduel, Diana Pray, Julie Marcus, Jeff Kennedy, Derek Cousineau, Julia Murphy, Stephen Hattwick, Emily Nogue, Elmer Tosta, Juliet Cox, Mara Iaconi, Kristen Steck, Diane Campbell, Beth Stein, Marie Sayles, Mary Shea, Morgan Snyder, Mia Hershiser, Ben Chun, Neal Mirchandani, Joby Bernstein, Nanda Palmieri, Diane Walton, Duke Dahlin, Julian Saperstein, Lorna Newlin, John Henderson

Test Swim

DDominic Lusinchi, John Robiola, Jari Salomaa, Stuart Moulder, Celeste McMullin, Eliana Agudelo, Ally Sillins, Jay Karimi, Bobby Lu, Alix Marduel, Janine Corcoran, Peter Cullinan, Denise Saurteig, Heather Kremer, Virginie Eskenazi, Ramsey Williams, Karin Christenson, Tim Kreutzen, Tom Bernard, Nathaniel Berger, Forrest Carroll

Veterans Day Swim—November 9, 2024

Duke Dahlin writes, "[It] was an awesome, beautiful sunny day in San Francisco day to honor and celebrate our Veterans from the Dolphin Club and South End Rowing Club. Thank you very much to all the volunteers and swimmers who participated. We appreciate all of you very much. I want to especially recognized and acknowledge Diane Campbell for all her great work in helping me organize this event and, making this idea come true for myself and other veterans."

Volunteers

Eliana Agudelo, Jana Ašenbrennerová, Julie Ask, Fasica Alemayehu, Joni Beemsterboer, Tamar Besson, Barbara Byrnes, Andrew Cassidy, Ben Chun, Jeff Citron, Bevin Daniels, Dorian & Steve Dunne, Sue Garfield, Steve Hanson, Robin Hart, Suzanne Heim, John Hornor, Vincent & Cathy Huang, Justine Juson, Margaret Keenan, Sunny McKee, Laura Merkl, Maryann Murphy, Amber Nishimura, Raine O'Connor, David O'Reilly, Diana Pray, James Ross, Julian Sapirstein, Emily Savinar-Nogue, Marie Sayles, Amy Smith, Beth Stein, Tom Hunt, Chris Wagner, and Diane Walton.

Swimmers

Sue Abritton, Andy Ach, Clara Alt, Georgii Barber, Cynthia Barnard, Bob Blum, Nicholas Blum, Joe Boone, Amy Brant, Barbara Byrnes, Mary Cantini, Bobby Carp, Jeff Citron, Derek Cousineau, Christophe Crombez, Todd Elkins, Sheri Eng, Elliot Evers, Joe Ferrero, Sheila Gleeson, Flash Gordon, Amy Graff, Damian Guenzing, Ellen Halladey, Sandra Halladey, Ernst Halpern, Ashley Hazel, Dave Holmes-Kinsella, Nancy Hornor, John Hornor, Heidi Howell, Chris Igo, Krist Jake, Justine Juson, Joe Kanlewski, Chris Kocher, Heather Kremer, Mickey Labelle, Linnea Landpuit, Jean Lelu, Ruby Lipscomb, Fiona McCusker, Bob McKenzie, Shane Mervin, Nico Mervin, Elisabeth Meyer, Kent Meyers, Maryann Murphy, Keith Nelson, Peter Neubauer, DJ Nicholls, Emily Nogue, David O'Reilly, Todd Oppenheimer, Tony Phillips, Diana Pray, Jen Rogers, Phil Rollins, Julian Saperstein, Marie Sayles, Scott Schwartz, Brendan Sheehan, Ally Sillins, Clint Smith, Tovia Sobel, Beth Stein, Tamara Strauss, Jeffrey Tong, Dave Ufferfilge, Diane Walton, Brooke Wentz, Laurine Wickett, Otto Williams

The Dolphin Swimming
& Boating Club
502 Jefferson Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

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PERMIT NO. 1020

2025 DOLPHIN CLUB SWIM & EVENT SCHEDULE

Event	Day	Date	Current/Tide (Gg)	Jump
*New Year's Day Alcatraz**	WED	1 Jan	09:42 1.7kn F	07:00
New Year's Day Cove	WED	1 Jan		09:00
*Pier 41**	SUN	2 Feb	05:30 2.0kn E	07:30
Valentine's Day Singles Regatta	SAT	15 Feb		
Old Timers' Lunch	SUN	16 Feb		
*Gashouse Cove**	SAT	1 Mar	09:54 1.8kn F	08:30
End of Polar Bear	FRI	21 Mar		
Start of Walt Stack Challenge	SAT	22 Mar		
*Pier 39**	SAT	22 Mar	08:54 1.5kn E	08:00
Blackaller Buoy Run	SUN	13 Apr		
*Coghlan Beach**	SAT	26 Apr	09:12 1.6kn F	08:30
Walt Schneebeli Over-60 Cove	SAT	10 May		07:00
Master Mariners Regatta	SAT	24 May		
*Yacht Harbor**	SUN	25 May	09:24 1.6kn F	09:00
End of Walt Stack Challenge	SAT	31 May		
Start of 100 Mile Swim	SUN	1 Jun		
McCovey Cove Mixer	SAT	7 Jun		
*John Nogue Swim For Science - Pier 15**	SAT	14 Jun	05:18 2.3kn E	07:00
*Pride Swim**	SUN	22 Jun	08:24 1.4kn F	
Angel Island Picnic & Overnight	SAT	28 Jun		
*Bay Bridge**	SUN	13 Jul	05:12 2.5kn E	07:00
Alcatraz Regatta	SUN	20 Jul		
*China Beach***	SUN	10 Aug	11:00 1.8kn F	07:30
*Santa Cruz 1 Mile**	SAT	16 Aug		
*Santa Cruz 2 Mile**	SUN	17 Aug		
*Doc Howard 45+ Swim**	SAT	23 Aug	10:42 2.0kn F	11:00
*Ft. Point**	SUN	7 Sep	09:48 1.8kn F	07:30
Escape from Alcatraz Tri (EFAT)	SUN	14 Sep	09:06 0.9kn E	06:45
Swim Across America	SUN	21 Sep		
Alcatraz	SUN	28 Sep	08:30 0.7kn E	07:00
*DC/SE Interclub Tri**	SAT	4 Oct		
Joe Bruno Golden Gate	SAT	25 Oct	06:24 0.9kn E	09:15
End of 100 Mile Swim	FRI	31 Oct		
Angel Island Regatta	SAT	1 Nov		
Veterans Day Swim (Cove)	SAT	8 Nov		08:00
Pilot Appreciation Dinner	SAT	8 Nov		
Thanksgiving Day Cove	THU	27 Nov		
New Year's Day Qualifier & Holiday Brunch	SUN	14 Dec		08:00
Start of Polar Bear	SUN	21 Dec		

Swim Program Rules

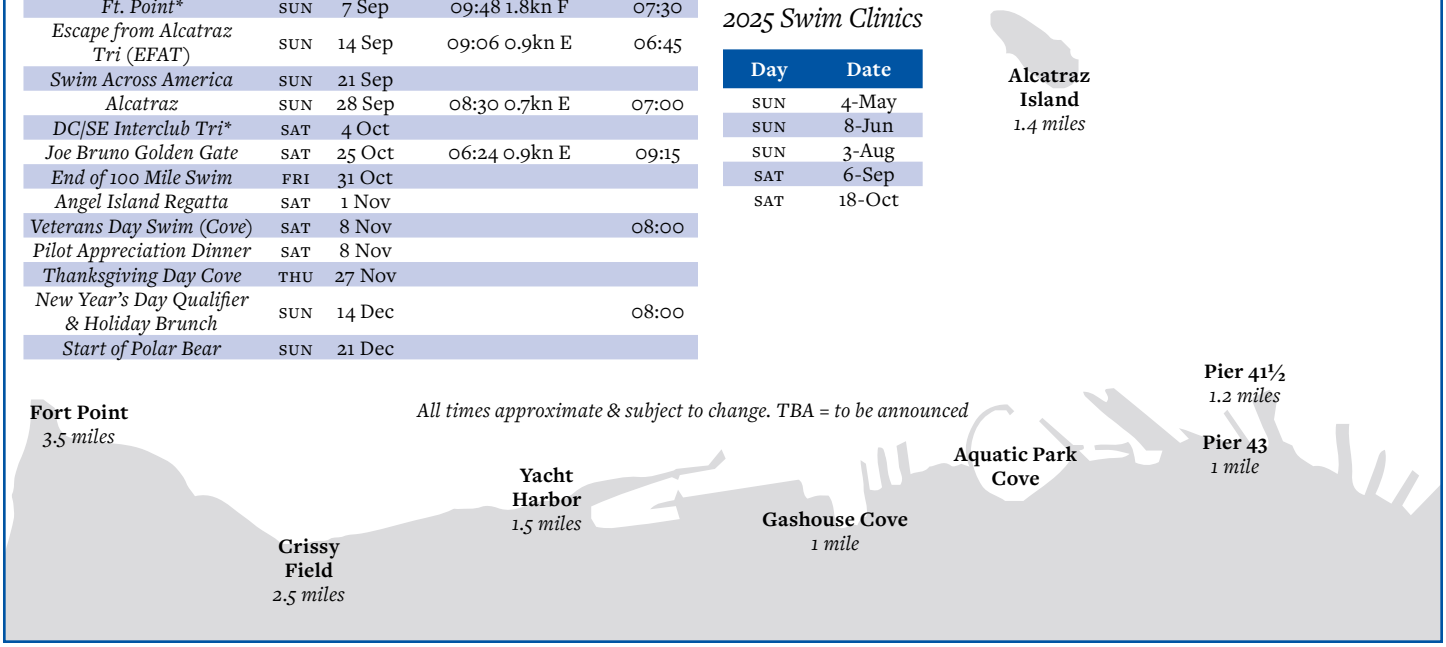
1. Club scheduled swims are restricted to Club members, who are current on their dues and fees and in good standing.
2. Swimmers must have current USMS membership, and abide by each organization's rules and requirements.
3. Swimmers are required to wear orange caps on all scheduled swims.
4. Swimmers cannot use swim aids, including fins and wet suits, on any scheduled swims.
5. New members are not eligible to swim in scheduled out-of-cove swims for either 6 months from the start of their membership, or before successfully completing the 100-mile swim, the Polar Bear swim, or the Accelerated Out-of-Cove process.
6. All out-of-cove swims require a pilot:swimmer ratio of 1:3.
7. Time limits may be imposed at the discretion of the Swim Commissioner(s).
8. All Club boats are reserved for scheduled swims. Co-pilots are encouraged. Riders are prohibited.
9. Swimmers must register during check-in and attend the swim briefing in order to swim.
10. Swimmers must successfully complete at least two qualifying swims and help on at least three swims to qualify for Alcatraz and Golden Gate Swims.
11. Out-of-town members must have successfully completed two of the last three Club scheduled Alcatraz and/or Golden Gate swims or meet Rule 10 above.

(Nothing in the above rules shall contravene any applicable Federal laws and statutes.)

** Qualifying Swim. Need 2 qualifying swims + 3 helps to qualify for Golden Gate and/or Alcatraz.*
*** Requires special qualifier, details TBA*

2025 Swim Clinics

Day	Date
SUN	4-May
SUN	8-Jun
SUN	3-Aug
SAT	6-Sep
SAT	18-Oct



All times approximate & subject to change. TBA = to be announced